

TODAY

## A VERY HUMAN ANDROID

Rutger Hauer, Blade Runner  
MAGAZINE

## PRICING YOUR HOUSE

How the estate agents differ  
WEEKEND

## COUNTRY KITCHENS

Terence Conran on the heart of British cooking  
MAGAZINE

## YOUR POUND ON HOLIDAY

WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES FOR ONLY

10p EVERY MONDAY

PLUS: CAR 97, DIRECTORY, FOR THE BEST 7 DAYS AND A DAY AND A DAY FOR THE TIMES

Time now for talks, says Adams

# Ceasefire call to the IRA by Sinn Fein

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND NICHOLAS WATT IN BELFAST AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE IRA was last night expected to declare a ceasefire in response to a call from Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president.

Mr Adams said he had called on the IRA leadership to restore the 18-month ceasefire that ended with the Docklands bombing in February 1996 because the Labour Government had removed the obstacles to serious peace talks posed by John Major's administration. He expected a swift and positive response.

An unequivocal IRA ceasefire would allow Sinn Fein to join the all-party peace negotiations set to begin on September 15, but there were serious doubts developing last night about whether those negotiations will take place.

Unionists were dismissive of the IRA move, saying it was nothing more than a tactic to get Sinn Fein into the talks. It had come, they said, after the Government had made serious concessions to Republicans, with an assurance that the decommissioning of terrorist weapons was not needed before Sinn Fein could enter talks.

Peter Robinson, the Democratic Unionist Party deputy leader, said: "Why would the IRA not call a ceasefire? They have got everything they have asked for."

The ceasefire move comes after considerable movement in the past few weeks, includ-



Adams' assurance by London and Dublin

ing telephone and written contacts between Sinn Fein and the Northern Ireland Office under Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary. But after a meeting in London yesterday, Ms Mowlam and Ray Burke, the Irish Foreign Minister, said they were standing firmly behind a joint document on the decommissioning of IRA weapons that Unionist leaders have labelled unacceptable.

The Unionist parties are threatening to vote the document down on Wednesday because it offers no guarantee that decommissioning will begin early in the talks and they believe Sinn Fein wants to negotiate with "guns under the table".

In calling for a ceasefire, Mr Adams said he had received the assurances he needed that

the British and Irish governments were committed to serious negotiations on the future of Northern Ireland without preconditions. Those negotiations would be completed within a stated timeframe. The decommissioning issue would not be allowed to block negotiations. No outcome would be precluded, meaning that Northern Ireland's position within the United Kingdom could be debated.

Mr Adams said his announcement was also based on the commitment of Bertie Ahern, the new Irish Prime Minister, to pushing for "significant and substantial change" benefiting the nationalist community in Northern Ireland.

In an aside, he said he was "confident that the mistakes that were made by the former Taoiseach, John Bruton, will not be repeated and that Sinn Fein will be accorded full equality of treatment."

Since the election Tony Blair's Government has, despite Unionist anger, gone out of its way to meet Sinn Fein's concerns. It has made clear that the decommissioning issue would be considered in parallel with, and not before, serious peace talks. It offered Sinn Fein admittance to those talks within six weeks of an unequivocal ceasefire, and an assurance that the talks would be completed by next May. It

Continued on page 2, col 6



Prince's party: Camilla Parker Bowles arrives at the Prince of Wales's country retreat in Gloucestershire last night for her 50th birthday celebration

## Champagne birthday at Highgrove

BY SIMON DE BRUNELLES

EIGHTY close friends of the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles gathered at his country estate in Gloucestershire last night for a party to celebrate her 50th birthday. It was the most public of private events, trumpeted as a milestone in the couple's affair.

Mrs Parker Bowles was the first guest to arrive. Wearing a dark blue sleeveless silk dress and a glittering

necklace, she turned and smiled for the cameras before being driven through the Street Farm entrance of the Prince's country retreat.

She was sitting in the passenger seat in a black Vauxhall Omega estate as the car went through the gates of Highgrove House shortly after 7 o'clock.

As other guests arrived half an hour later, they were ushered into the reception room for champagne and

canapés, while a large press contingent was kept safely at arm's length outside the gates of the well-protected 350-acre estate. Dinner was served in a 120ft marquee.

Last-minute arrivals included the disco from Joffins, which provides music for the Dorchester Club, and a lorry from the Convenience Company carrying portable lavatories.

The weather for the event was perfect, if muggy, and guests were

expected to work off the five-course dinner dancing to classics from the last 40 years played by an orchestra.

The guests included many friends who had known the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles since their youth. Among them was expected to be her ex-husband, Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles.

The guest list included most of the couple's close circle of friends. Continued on page 2, col 7

## Cash pours into building societies

Nearly £2 billion poured into building societies last month as speculators bet on which would be the next to convert into a bank. The head of the Building Societies Association said: "This reveals the intense pressure societies are under from carpenterbaggers." Page 25

## Warm spell

As schools in England and Wales break up, forecasters said the weather would be warm and sunny next week. Forecast, page 24

WEATHER	24
CROSSWORD	24
COURT & SOCIAL	22
LETTERS	21
OBITUARIES	23
SIMON JENKINS	20
BUSINESS	25, 28, 40, 41
MONEY	29, 39
SPORT	42, 48
WEEKEND	
GARDENING	46
PROPERTY	3, 10
TRAVEL	15, 21

## Sotheby's ends regular London antiquity sales over 'smuggling'

BY STEPHEN FARRELL AND DALYA ALBERGE

SOTHEBY'S is to end regular antiquities sales in London. The decision comes five months after allegations that the firm sold artefacts that had been smuggled into Britain.

Now the world's oldest auction house will hold only occasional sales in London from collections of unquestioned provenance. All other sales will go to New York.

Two of Sotheby's leading London experts, Oliver Forge, head of antiquities, and Brendan Lynch, head of the Islamic and Indian department, left the company this week in the wake of the decision.

Sotheby's move has been prompted by increasing concern among archaeologists that the £100 million international antiquities market encourages looting and the illicit excavation of religious sites in such countries as India, Italy and Egypt.

A far-reaching internal review of Sotheby's international dealings and auction-room practices was announced in February by Diana Brooks, its New York-based chief executive. Her decision came after disclosures by Peter Watson in Sotheby's *Inside Story*, which was serialised in *The Times*.

He and investigators from the Channel 4 *Dispatches* programme secretly filmed Indian dealers boasting that they smuggled artefacts removed from religious sites that later appeared in Sotheby's catalogues. There was no evidence that Sotheby's knew the source of the items.

The investigators also videotaped Rosalind Kollweijn, Sotheby's Milan Old Masters expert, offering to smuggle a 19th-century portrait to London. He later resigned.

The internal review is expected to report in the autumn, but a Sotheby's spokes-

man confirmed last night that the withdrawal from London was part of a continuous process. He said: "It has always been Sotheby's policy to be sensitive to issues of patrimony and heritage. In response, however, to recently expressed concerns on these issues, Sotheby's is making modifications in its Indian and its Antiquities departments. We will continue to hold certain single-owner sales in London, when appropriate."

**Sotheby's to review code of conduct**

From *The Times* dated February 11 this year

## Ousted Tory MPs still seek jobs

BY STAFF REPORTERS

ALMOST a third of the Conservative MPs who lost their seats at the general election have yet to find full-time employment.

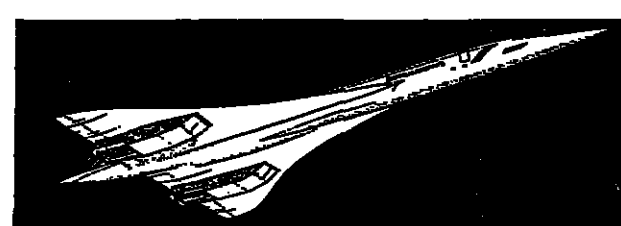
A survey by *The Times* of the 127 defeated Tories found that 37 are still looking for work or taking time off to consider their options.

A further ten are making a precarious living from part-time consultancy or occasional lecturing and media work. Six have retired.

Among several Cabinet ministers without full-time work are Michael Forsyth, Ian Lang and Jeremy Hanley.

Many former MPs did not expect to lose and had made no preparations for life outside Parliament. As several former MPs' wives said: "There is nothing more 'ex' than an ex-MP." The average age of the defeated Tories is 53.

Defeated Tories, pages 12, 13



## QE2 & RYDER CUP

Two night QE2 cruise to Spain on 22 Sept. • five nights with entry to Ryder Cup • Concorde to Heathrow £2,399

Eurostar to Paris on 27 Sept. • two nights with city tour • Concorde supersonic to Malaga • two night QE2 cruise to Southampton • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,499

Six night QE2 cruise to New York on 24 Aug. • three nights • Concorde supersonic to Toronto • four nights • Niagara with helicopter • city tours • BA747 £2,899

## TORONTO OR NEW YORK

BA 747 to Toronto on 29 August or 6 September • five nights at the Sheraton • Niagara with helicopter • city tour • harbour cruise • Phantom of the Opera • luncheons • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,999

BA 747 to New York on any day • four nights at the Hilton (inc. Sat.) • Concorde to Heathrow £2,499

On 11 Oct., fly Club Class to Delhi, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Hawaii, Los Angeles & New York • Concorde to Heathrow • twenty-three nights at deluxe hotels • tours £9,999

## ORIANA & ORIENT-EXPRESS

Concorde supersonic to Brussels on 30 August • overnight in Amsterdam • two night Oriana cruise to Southampton via Guernsey • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,299

Concorde supersonic to Tenerife on 9 October • six night Oriana cruise to Southampton via La Palma, Lanzarote and Vigo • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,799

Concorde to Brussels on 17 October • tour the capital and Bruges • overnight Oriana cruise to Southampton £699

Orient-Express to Southampton on 1 November • five night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Vigo and Madeira • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,699

For our full colour brochure, please telephone:

0181-992 7000

or write to

SUPERLATIVE TRAVEL

43, Woodhurst Road, London, W3 6SS

## Hamlyn gives name and £17m to South Bank

BY DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S South Bank Centre is to be renamed The Paul Hamlyn Centre on the South Bank after a multi-million-pound gift from one of Britain's most generous philanthropists.

The reclusive Paul Hamlyn, who shares the fortune he made in publishing with needy arts and charitable causes, is believed to have given as much as £17 million to the project.

The South Bank Centre

would not confirm the figure, but described it as one of the largest-ever contributions by a private individual to an arts project in Britain.

The money will go towards the planned transformation of the decaying Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, Poetry Library and Hayward Gallery.

The Centre is awaiting news within the next few weeks on its bid for lottery money from the Arts Council and National Heritage Memorial Fund for the £151 million scheme. Mr Hamlyn's donation, which

meets "a significant part" of the Centre's partnership funding target, is dependent on the project receiving a lottery award.

Under the plan, landscaping and new public spaces will make the most of the river setting and give a new look to a hostile, soulless concrete jungle with a maze of wind-swept walkways that attract graffiti artists and vandals.

The scheme is being designed by Richard Rogers and Allies and Morrison, creating one of the largest arts complexes in Europe — spanning

27 acres in which buildings constructed between 1951 and 1968 will be covered with a glass canopy.

An official announcement on the gift may be made by Downing Street where Mr Hamlyn, 71, is valued as one of the Labour Party's most generous benefactors.

Reports suggest that Mr Hamlyn, the son of Czech immigrants, boasts a £230 million fortune. It all began in the 1950s when, with £350 in his pocket, he started trading from a barrow in Camden market.



Hamlyn: started work from a barrow

9 770140 046664







# Walkers have new mountains to climb



Climbers on top of a Munro in the Torridon area, admiring the view. Anyone still tackling the 277 peaks over 3000 ft must now tackle an extra eight hills after the decision to increase the number

## Shirley English finds that 'Munro baggers' face an uphill task

MUNRO baggers who thought it was safe to hang up their boots after climbing all 277 mountains over 3,000 feet in Scotland are being forced to think again.

The Scottish Mountaineering Club, which compiles tables of Munros, is about to add a further eight peaks to the official list later this year. For the hardy bunch of dedicated climbers determined to "bag" all the lofty peaks in their lifetime, it means their holy grail has now moved a little further out of reach.

The new edition of the tables, to be published in October/November, will also remove one old Munro from the list, now not thought worthy of the title.

Sgor an Iubhair in the Mamores is being demoted from a peak to a mere "top" because its ascent from surrounding peaks is now

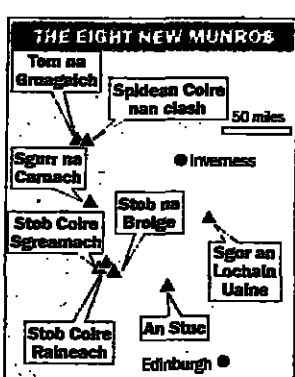
deemed too small. In total there will be 284 Munros instead of 277.

The changes have nothing to do with sudden alterations in the landscape, but are the result of a whim of the mountaineering club, which has decided to alter the way it classifies the peaks and tops, or "humps".

The 1,750 Munroists, who over the past 106 years have "bagged" all the Munros, will not be affected. They will be allowed to keep their Munro tie, if male, or brooch, if female. However those close to conquering all 277 will now have eight extra peaks to climb and if they have already bagged Sgor an Iubhair, they will have wasted their breath

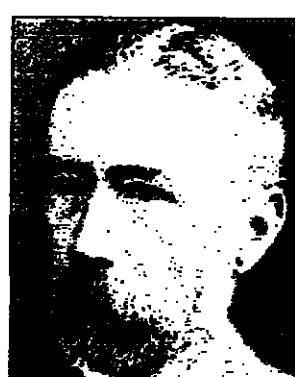
— in effect, they will have gone up a mountain and come down a hill.

Yesterday Donald Bennet, publications manager for the Scottish Mountaineering Trust, said he hoped the alterations would be welcomed by climbers keen for a new challenge. But he admitted the list was largely subjective: "I would hope that most hill walkers and climbers will think it's great that they've got an excuse to get back out on the mountains." The move is meant to complete a process started 16 years ago when a number of tops were reclassified and promoted to Munros in their own right. Over the years the number of Munros has fluctuated. The first list of



The peaks were named after pioneer Sir Hugh Munro

238 peaks was compiled by Sir Hugh Munro in 1891, a Victorian businessman and founder of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, whose name



became the generic term for the highest peaks. By 1921 there were 276 Munros. This shrank and grew, reaching 279 in 1953, then dropping to

276 in 1981 when the last major changes took place.

Metamorphosis transformed Munros into peaks higher than 914.4 metres, a less magical figure. The number reached 277 in 1990 when the Ordnance Survey reassessed the height of a peak once thought too small.

Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary and the only parliamentary Munroist, completed his final peak in May 1989, 24 years after climbing his first as a 13-year-old.

He said yesterday: "I will be examining the new peaks with interest to see if I have been over them. If not I will look forward to finding the time to get back out there

again." Other famous Munro-baggers included the late Labour leader John Smith, who took up walking for fitness after his heart attack in 1988. He had a map dotted with around 100 red pins, representing Munros conquered, at Westminster.

Cameron McNeish, mountain writer and broadcaster, said many would have to go over old ground to take in the new tops. "It all adds to the rather daft nature of Munro-bagging, but being cynical I can't help thinking that when the Munro Tables come round for reprint every five or six years it makes good commercial sense to come up with a newer list."

Sir Hugh Munro attempted

to climb all the peaks dressed in a kilt and Balmoral bonnet. He bagged all but two, the Inaccessible Pinnacle on Skye and Carn Clìoch-mhulinn in the Cairngorms, which he was keeping until last. He died of pneumonia in France in 1919, aged 63, before he could tackle them.

The eight new Munros are Sgor Coire Raineach (on Buachaille Etive Beag ridge, Glencoe); Sgor na Broige (Buachaille Etive Mor, Glencoe); Sgor Coire Sgreimach (Bidean nam Bian, Glencoe); Sgor Coire nan clach (Beinn Eighe, Wester Ross); Sgor na Gruagaich (Beinn Alligin, Wester Ross); An Stuc (Ben Lawers group, Central Highlands); Sgor na Carnach (Five Sisters of Kintail ridge); and Sgor an Lochain Uaine, or Angel's Peak (Braeriach to Cairn Toul ridge, Cairngorms).

## Mayday as drink kills Russian

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A RUSSIAN sailor died and another had to be flown ashore in a Royal Navy helicopter yesterday after they drank large quantities of industrial alcohol on their ship.

The two men fell seriously ill as the merchant ship *MY Vladimir Vysotsky* sailed in the southern Caribbean, north of Venezuela. The Royal Navy ship *HMS Norfolk* responded to a mayday call in the early hours and a Lynx helicopter with medical staff flew to the scene.

A spokesman for the Royal Navy said: "Unfortunately one of the men had already died by the time the helicopter arrived. The other man was winched onto the helicopter and flown to the sick bay of *HMS Norfolk*. He has now been transferred to a hospital in Aruba in the Dutch Antilles, where he is still seriously ill."

Alcohol is banned on the Russian ship and it appears that the two men turned to methanol, normally used as a solvent, in desperation. *HMS Norfolk* was en route from the Panama Canal to Tortola in the British Virgin Islands.

## Boy died after doctor cut artery

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A TEENAGE boy died after an operation in which a surgeon accidentally cut one of his main arteries, an inquest has been told.

Mark Smith, who was studying for his GCSEs, was taken to hospital after suffering stomach pains and sickness just a month before sitting his exams. Doctors diagnosed a blockage in his small bowel and he was operated on at the East Surrey Hospital. During surgery Peter Bird, who was conducting the operation, mistakenly cut a main artery with a surgical lance.

The inquest at Chertsey, Surrey, heard how the teenager made a quick recovery and, in a matter of days, had returned to his home in Crawley, West Sussex. However, only a few days later he awoke his parents in the early hours suffering from extreme abdominal pains.

At Thursday's inquest his parents, Richard and Ann, related the two hours in which their son's condition deteriorated until he was pronounced dead in the accident and emergency unit on May 25 this

year. The inquest was told how repeated attempts to find Mark's medical notes were fruitless.

The hearing was told that Mark was taken for a series of tests but collapsed during some X-rays. His blood pressure fell and he went into cardiac arrest.

Dr Fuad Jinadu said that had he known of the surgical mishap Mark could have been operated on straight away in a bid to clamp his artery and stem the flow of blood. He was not told of the problem until after Mark's death.

Mr Bird, who originally operated on Mark, said he believed that Mark's fatal bleeding had begun on Sunday when he first experienced severe pains in his abdomen.

A post-mortem examination showed that the infected cut had begun bleeding — possibly for two days before Mark collapsed — and had then finally burst, leaving four pints of blood in the boy's abdomen. Recording a verdict of accidental death, Surrey Coroner Michael Burgess said that Mark's death had been caused due to haemorrhage.

## Daughter gets life for stabbing

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN was jailed for life yesterday for stabbing her 51-year-old mother to death on the day before Mothering Sunday.

Michelle Pearce, 28, from Corby, Northamptonshire, stabbed her mother, a divorcee, more than 30 times as she lay in bed on March 16 last year. The prosecution said her motive might never be known, although Pearce was in financial difficulties and stood to benefit by £50,000 from an insurance policy on her mother's life.

She denied murder, and claimed that her mother was seen alive after the time she was alleged to have been stabbed. After the verdict, the jury was told that she also faced a second murder charge over a former boyfriend, David Anderson, 28, in Corby in January 1990. He was found dead after a car he was sitting in caught fire in Corby. A coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death after an inquest seven years ago. Yesterday Mr Justice Eady recorded a formal verdict of not guilty on the case after the prosecution offered no evidence.

## Wreck salvage team ordered to halt

AN OPERATION to salvage the wreck of an 18th-century packet ship lost off the north Cornish coast over 200 years ago was ordered to stop at midnight last night.

The order to protect the wreck of the *Hanover* was made by Tony Banks, the Culture, Media and Sport Minister, under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. On Thursday it emerged that 14 historic cannon have been brought out of the wreck, off Cligga Head, near Perranporth, by treasure hunters hoping to raise gold bullion worth up to £50 million.

Three of the two-ton cannon were raised from the sea onto a diving rig where they are wrapped in sackcloth to preserve them. The remainder are still under water near the rig. The team salvaging the wreck of the square-rigged



Martin spent ten years searching for wreck

Royal Mail ship, which sank in a storm in 1763, is being led by Colin Martin, 35, chairman of the Cornish salvage firm Hydralive.

He spent ten years hunting for the wreck and has had a team of about 25 working

from an offshore dive platform for the past three weeks.

Pumps have been used to clear sand which had covered the vessel, which sank on route from Portugal to Falmouth. It was believed to be carrying gold coins then worth £60,000, but which would now worth millions.

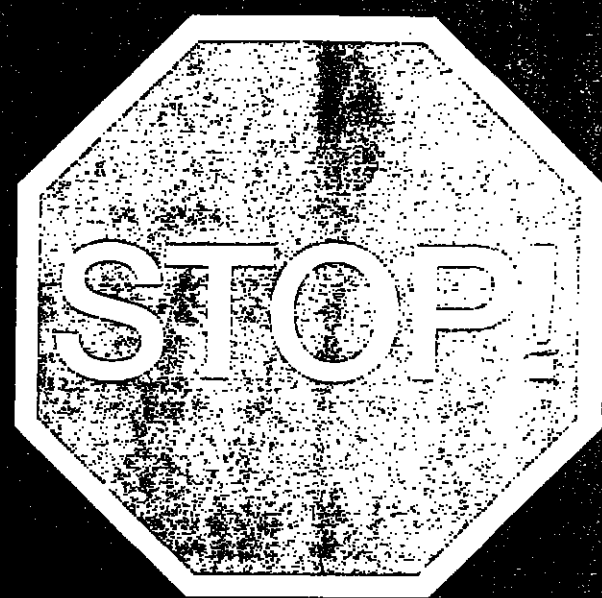
The department said yesterday the order made it an offence to interfere with the wreck, or to carry out diving or salvage operations without a licence from the Secretary of State.

"The current operations have to stop," said a spokesman, who said the department's interest was the archaeological value of the site. Mr Martin would need to apply for a licence from the Secretary of State if he wanted to continue. Although the department

had been monitoring the situation closely for some months, they had not known the precise location of the site, and diving had only recently started.

A spokesman for the Post Office, which tried unsuccessfully to have the site designated a protected wreck, said its experts did not believe there was any bullion at the site. The spokesman said: "Salvage continued for two years after the ship was wrecked, and it seems likely any treasure left on board would have been recovered." It was, though, concerned about artefacts.

The salvage firm said last night it was "considering its options with its advisers". The company was shocked at the department's decision. Its prime concern was the safety of the wreck.



**paying money into your pension**

Take a break if you need to, start again when you can. Put away a lot, a little, different amounts at different times. It's your money and your pension. We don't tie you up with stupid rules or charge you for changing your plans. To start today, give us a call.

**virgin direct**  
personal financial service

0645 95 95 95

Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back all the money you invest. The basis of tax may change and the value of the tax benefits depends on how much tax you pay. For your security, all calls to Virgin Direct will be recorded and randomly monitored.


**CABLE & WIRELESS**

Price Pledge terms apply on Mercury SmartCall and UK-Call call bills only, compared against BT's basic rates and discount schemes, excluding line rental and temporary promotional offers. Not available on Calling Card or business packages.

Sir Ron, conscious that he will be establishing a blueprint for the next century, is anxious not to damage long-term plans for higher education with a short-term solution to the universities' difficulties.

Printed by The Advertising Investment Managers Limited, 60 St. Mary Axe, London EC2A 4EJ. Registered in England.

هكذا عند الأصل







# THE SUNDAY TIMES MIDAS TOUCH



Versace's huge commercial success was due to the fact that he knew us better than we knew ourselves. He understood the basic human need to show off. He was the first couturier to acknowledge that the old standards of taste were dead and that the new approach was about excess, vulgarity and supreme confidence.

The designer who made a fortune from bad taste — in style

THE SUNDAY TIMES  
TOMORROW

## Blair stakes his authority on Welsh plebiscite

THE people of Wales were treated to a double act yesterday. Tony Blair had come to the Principality to stake his authority on the campaign for a Welsh assembly. But it was also an occasion for Mr Blair and Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, to put on a united front and enthuse the Welsh nation that an assembly would give them "a strong voice".

The venue was straight from central casting — Llancaiach Fawr Manor — on Mr Davies's home ground in his South Wales constituency of Caerphilly. In the summer of 1945 Charles I had come to the house to drum up support for the royalist cause.

The irony of the situation was not lost on the Prime Minister, who joked with an audience of more than 200, saying: "We all know what happened to Charles I."

There were, however, no walk-on roles for the die-hards in the Welsh Labour

Labour anxious that plan for assembly may be rejected by voters, reports Valerie Elliott

Party who have declared their scepticism to devolution. Mr Blair's whistle-stop tour to Newport, Caerphilly and Cardiff also avoided confrontation with the "devosceptics". Instead, Mr Blair mounted a robust defence of a Welsh assembly, and urged the people to "vote yes" in the referendum on September 18.

It was clear that some people would have preferred Mr Blair's visit after the plans

had been published in a White Paper next Tuesday. But the Prime Minister looks set to return a number of times to Wales to lead the campaign.

Yesterday, he set out a vision that an assembly would bring Government closer to the people and rid Wales of its present government-by-quango — there are about 120 such bodies. "The days of big government are over. The whole way the world is going is to greater decentralisation. If I was in Wales, I would vote for it. Wales has £7 billion cash every year, and the people will have a say on how it is spent."

Mr Blair also suggested that an assembly would allow people influence over areas that at present were not the responsibility of the Welsh Office, such as law and order. However, the visit from Mr Blair demonstrated the nervousness in the Government that the Welsh people might repeat the vote of 1979 and



Tony Blair at the Llancaiach Fawr heritage centre yesterday, where he held a questions-and-answers forum

reject devolution. Their fears have been prompted also by apparent apathy — a poll for the *Western Mail* in Cardiff showed that 44 per cent were still undecided. There was also concern that there would be a low turn-out in the referendum while ministers are anxious to ensure convincing endorsement.

A handful of Welsh Labour MPs have also indicated some anxiety. Lew Smith, MP for

Blaenau Gwent, is a keen constitutionalist, and has long been an opponent of devolution. Others, while not wholly hostile, are devo-sceptic. Denzil Davies, Llanelli; Edward Rowlands, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney; and Sir Raymond Powell, Ogmore, are opposed to the use of proportional representation in elections to the assembly. While Alan Rodgers, MP for Rhondda, believes that local

government could be undermined by an assembly.

Their concerns have also been fuelled by recent disclosures that Wales's quango state may not be fully dismantled. It seems there are a number of bodies set up by royal charter that would prove difficult to unwind.

It was clear, however, from the jubilant reception for Mr Blair yesterday that the people of Wales want their

share of attention from the new government.

An official launch for the "vote no" campaign yesterday attracted just three people. Robert Hodge, 42, a Cardiff businessman, and son of financier and Jersey tax exile, Sir Julian Hodge, has agreed to act as figurehead for the campaign. His father has pledged financial support.

Ted Rowlands, page 20

## WHY NOT GIVE YOUR HOME A FACELIFT THIS SUMMER?

**RING**  
Kingsbury Outdoor Lantern Black  
Was £12.99  
Save £4  
**£8.99**

**DULUX**  
Gloss Finish  
**£5.79**

**DULUX**  
Liquid Gloss  
Choice of colours  
750ml  
Was £6.79 Save £1

**HOMEBASE**  
No Loss Brushes  
Set of 3  
Was £7.29  
Save £2  
**£5.29**

**HOMEBASE**  
Weathercoat Smooth  
Masonry Paint  
Choice of colours  
5 litres  
Was £15.99  
Save £3  
**£12.99**

**HOMEBASE**  
White Spirit  
750ml  
Was 99p  
Save 14p  
**85p**

**LUXFORM**  
Low Voltage  
Garden Lights Set of 4  
**£24.99**

**CROWN**  
Pure Brilliant  
White Emulsion  
Matt or Silk  
10 litres Was £20.99 Save £4  
**£16.99**

**HAMMERITE**  
Smooth finish  
Choice of colours 500ml  
Also available Hammered finish  
Was £8.49 Save £1.50  
**£6.99**

**POLYCELL**  
Ready-Mixed  
Exterior Filler 330g  
Was £2.99  
Save 50p  
**£2.49**

**BOSCH**  
Wallpaper  
Stripper PTL1  
Was £39.99 Save £7  
**£32.99**

**HOMEBASE**  
Weathercoat  
Exterior High Gloss Brilliant  
White or Choice of colours  
750ml Was £2.49 Save £2.20  
**£4.99**

**DULUX**  
Non-Drip Gloss  
Pure Brilliant White 2.5 litres  
Was £9.49 Save £2  
**£7.49**

**DULUX**  
Once Emulsion, Pure  
Brilliant White or  
Choice of colours  
2 litre Handypack  
(for Paintmate)  
Was £10.99 Save £1.70  
**£9.29**

**BLACK & DECKER**  
PAINTMATE®  
VersaPak VP900  
Cordless Painting  
System  
**£37.99**

**BELDRAY**  
Gazelle 6-Tread  
Step Ladder  
Was £36.99  
Save £5  
**£31.99**

# HOMEVIEBASE

SAINSBURY'S HOUSE & GARDEN CENTRES

MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM - 8PM • FRIDAY 8AM - 9PM • SATURDAY 8AM - 8PM • SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM

All sizes are approximate and not to scale. Merchandise subject to availability. Products and offers may vary in Northern Ireland and Eire. \*Stores in Scotland open Sunday 10am-6pm. Opening times may vary. Please call 0445 801 800 during office hours for details. †If your nearest store. ‡Light bulb not included.

## Redwood renews call for minister to resign

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR



Lord Simon: has £2m shareholding in BP

THE Tory leadership last night renewed its call for Lord Simon of Highbury, the former chairman of BP, to resign from the Government after claiming that as minister responsible for the single market he is handling issues that affect the company, in which he has a £2 million shareholding.

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, wrote to Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, asking him to investigate the alleged conflict of interest between Lord Simon's role and the single market "action plan" that contains many items of relevance to BP.

He focused on the establishment of a common European Union energy tax, and pointed out that natural gas would be excluded from it. BP was a large producer of natural gas and he could not see how Lord Simon could be involved in discussions about the matter, Mr Redwood said.

Other matters covered by the plan included the liberalisation of the gas market, the elimination of distortion in the taxation of capital income, and rules to alleviate the burden of compliance with anti-trust rules.

Sir Robin has already ruled that there is no conflict of interest in Lord Simon retain-

ing his shares. But Mr Redwood, backed by William Hague, is determined to continue the campaign against the Minister for European Trade and Competitiveness, who was first attacked for not declaring his holding in the Lords' Register of Interests.

Mr Redwood last night said he could not see how a substantial shareholder in BP could represent the UK in the single-market negotiations. Matters came up in formal and informal meetings and so many items presented an actual or apparent conflict of interest for him as a BP shareholder. He asked what benefit BP would obtain from the proposed tax changes to energy and capital income.

Labour hit back last night, saying that Mr Redwood's attack confirmed the Tories were anti-business. "Lord Simon is a businessman of international standing. After the election he could have continued his career, with his huge earning capacity, but instead has chosen to give up his earnings and serve the British people at no cost to them," Ian McCartney, the Trade and Industry Minister, said.

## Polling time-sheets upset Tory hopefuls

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

POTENTIAL Tory candidates are protesting at having to fill out time sheets to show they have spent at least six hours campaigning in the Uxbridge by-election.

More than 100 would-be parliamentary candidates have been sent the forms, which they have been told to return to Conservative Central Office if they help in Uxbridge.

Yesterday William Hague, the Tory leader, was forced to defend the exercise, seen by some as an attempt to emulate Tony Blair's control of the Labour Party. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, challenged Mr Hague over his "bully-boy tactics". Mr

Hague said on a visit to Uxbridge that there was nothing new about the procedure, which had been used in one or two by-elections to encourage candidates to help.

Mr Hague denied that would-be candidates would be rejected if they did not go to Uxbridge, but he conceded that the information would be kept on record. "We need to know of course who supported us in a particular campaign. There is nothing new about that."

The Uxbridge by-election, to be held on July 31, was caused by the death of the sitting MP, Michael Shersby, who won the seat by a majority of 724 votes in May.

## THE SUMMER SALE

12th-26th JULY 1997

POLO RALPH LAUREN

143 NEW BOND STREET - LONDON W1  
(0171) 491 4967

ملتان، لاہور



# Woman faces jail threat for feeding birds



Barbara Simpson

A PENSIONER who attracts thousands of birds to her home by smothering her garden with food was warned yesterday that she could go to prison.

A council had become so exasperated with Barbara Simpson it had asked a judge to jail her for breaking an injunction forbidding her from feeding the birds at her home in the village of Preston, near Weymouth, Dorset.

Mrs Simpson, 60, agreed yesterday at Winchester Crown Court not to put out

Neighbours protest at noise and nuisance as rooks, pigeons and starlings descend on homes

any bird seed, nuts, cheese or other scraps on her lawns or surrounding pavement until her case is heard. But Mrs Justice Kennedy allowed Mrs Simpson to continue feeding her 30 doves from a bird table — despite being told the table measured 24 sq ft.

Neighbours had complained that Mrs Simpson spent £100 a week on assorted food for the birds. Rooks, pigeons and starlings perched

on neighbouring houses throughout the day, causing noise and nuisance, waiting for Mrs Simpson to feed them. Environmental health officers claimed the food was sometimes strewn bin deep.

Mrs Simpson, who is married to Robert, a retired newsagent, told the judge that she had not been present when the injunction was granted in December last year. Trevor Ward, representing Wey-

mouth and Portland Borough Council, said Mrs Simpson's previous solicitor asked to be released from the case a month ago.

Mr Justice Kennedy said he did not think it right to proceed with an application to commit someone to prison who was not represented.

He said he would adjourn the case but only on condition that Mrs Simpson gave an undertaking not to feed the

birds in the same terms as the injunction.

He told Mrs Simpson the birds could manage without her: "They will be able to find enough in July and August without any help from you."

Outside the court Mrs Simpson said: "The birds are my children and I would be prepared to go to prison if they stopped me feeding them."

She began feeding the birds 15 years ago, when a sick baby

blackbird landed on her doorstep. Since then she has begun emptying bags of cheese and nuts on to her front lawn and the path each day.

Vera Marshall, a neighbour in the seaside village, said: "It's been terrible. It smells like a chicken run and when we complain she just tells us not to be unkind. It begins at 5am when all the rooks start cawing away and waking us up. Then we get hundreds of

other birds sitting on our roofs waiting for her to come out. How would you like 200 pigeons sitting on your roof? We've got rats in the area now."

"I've lived here for seven years and she's been doing this ever since I arrived. We all go outside and try and clap the birds away which works temporarily but then they're back after two minutes."

"The council have tried to clear up the mess but as soon as they leave she comes out and pours more food out."

## Young robbers are jailed for steaming spree

By LIN JENKINS

A ROBBERY spree by a "steaming" gang that included two schoolboys ended in jail yesterday. Police believe they were responsible for a string of robberies on building societies across southern England.

They were sentenced yesterday for a raid on the Alliance and Leicester in Salisbury. Having reconnoitred their target, one acted as look-out, another stayed in the car while two pulled scarves across their faces, ran into the shop, leapt over the counter without stopping and rifled the tills, taking £3,913 before running off and escaping in the hired red Escort XR3i.

As they returned from the robbery in May last year they attacked a London mini-cab driver when frustrated at being unable to pass his car in a narrow road in Fulham. They hit him with bottles and a chair. The victim spent five days in hospital and required 15 stitches to head wounds.

Two weeks earlier, two of the gang, Jerome Bailey, now 15, and Dennis Rose, 21, took part in a similar attack on the Abbey National in Andover, Hampshire. Again they burst in, at speed, their faces obscured, leapt over the counter and emptied three tills of £6,140 before the staff could activate their counter protection shields, lock the doors or summon help.

Bailey, of Clapham, south London, admitted the robber-

ies and was given five years' youth detention for the Andover raid and six years for the Salisbury raid to run concurrently. He was given a further 18 months to run consecutively for the assault occasioning grievous bodily harm on the mini-cab driver.

Rose, also of Clapham, received three years and four years respectively, and 18 months to run consecutively for the assault. David Robinson, 22, and Adrian Martin, 19, both of Clapham, were jailed for six years for the Salisbury robbery and given a further nine months to run concurrently after pleading guilty to affray in connection with the attack on the minicab driver, on Ahmed Waberi.

Relatives of the accused gasped in surprise at the severity of the sentences, and Rose's mother collapsed and had to be helped from the court. Judge Timothy Forstus, sentencing them at Knightsbridge Crown Court sitting at the Borough, south London, said: "Witnesses speak of their feelings of shock and fear."

Acting Detective Chief Inspector Guy Ferguson, of Fulham police, who traced the gang and also recaptured Bailey after chasing him a quarter of a mile when he escaped from the dock at West London magistrates court earlier this year, said he was "very satisfied" with the sentences.



Simon Lupini, the Proms co-ordinator, gaining inspiration yesterday from a bust of Sir Henry Wood, founder of the Promenade Concerts

## Biggest Proms opens with first night sell-out

THE biggest BBC Proms concert season opened last night with a traditional sell-out performance (Damian Whitworth writes). Hundreds of singers and players were as tightly packed into the Albert Hall as the promenaders for Beethoven's *Mass Solemnis*, by Bernard Haitink.

The 103rd season of Henry Wood Proms will stage 73 concerts — one more than last year. Alongside classical performances the music of John

Leeson, Paul McCartney and Frank Zappa will be heard.

The King's Singers will premiere the new arrangements of *Penny Lane*, *Eleanor Rigby*, *I'll Follow the Sun* and *Honey Pie* on July 31 at a late-night concert. Excerpts from Zappa's *The Yellow Shark* can be heard tomorrow.

Brahms, who died 100 years ago, is one of three composers whose anniversaries will be marked. The others

are Schubert, who was born in 1797, and Mendelssohn, who died in 1847.

Leonora Thomson, spokeswoman for the Proms, said: "As is usual, seating for the first night was a sell-out, but sales are healthy for the whole series. Twenty per cent of the concerts have no seat tickets left, including the last night, but it is always possible to turn up and prom on the night."

The Proms and the Victoria and Albert Museum have joined forces to

present this year's Proms Chamber Music, to be held every Monday lunchtime at the museum. Nicholas Kenyon, the Proms director, said: "I hope there is a musical diet of extraordinary richness and variety."

A 70th birthday celebration concert will be held for John Dankworth and Cleo Laine, the first couple of jazz, and there will be a premiere of the new Dankworth piece. The Proms runs until Saturday, September 13.

## Murder police get extra time with suspect

By JOANNA BALE

DETECTIVES hunting the killer of Lin and Megan Russell were yesterday granted an extra 36 hours to question a man arrested in connection with the murders.

The unnamed suspect, in his 30s, was held in the Medway area of Kent on Thursday and taken to Chatham police station for questioning. Detectives were granted a 12-hour extension by a police superintendent yesterday morning, then a further 24 hours by a magistrate. Police were last night expected to apply for a further 36 hours. After a second extension of 24 hours, they must charge or release him.

The arrest follows an appeal last week on BBC's *Crimewatch UK* on the first anniversary of the murders. It prompted more than 1,000 calls from the public and the man held was one of several new names put forward.

Police have asked him to provide a sample of blood and hair for a DNA examination. Detectives have a tiny hair, believed to be the killer's, found at the murder scene. Officers have also been searching the man's home.

Mrs Russell, 45, and her daughter Megan, 6, were murdered as they walked along a quiet bridalway at Goodnestone near Canterbury by a man wielding a hammer. Mrs Russell's daughter Josie, now 10, survived the attack.



The Friends Provident Stewardship PEP seeks to avoid investment in companies that harm people, wildlife or our world.



Instead, it seeks to invest in companies that deliver positive benefits to society.

## WOULDN'T YOU RATHER HAVE PROFIT WITH PRINCIPLES?

### The Friends Provident Stewardship PEP

The Friends Provident Stewardship PEP aims to invest in companies that make a positive contribution to the world we live in.

And to avoid companies whose business practices could be harmful to the planet and its people.

Yet this needn't mean avoiding a decent profit.

Over the past 5 years, Stewardship has demonstrated a healthy return.

Some 87%\*

Just the kind of performance you would expect from Friends Provident, the UK's leading ethical investment company, which manages around £785 million of ethical investments.

Get on the Blue Line now, direct to Friends Provident. The Blue Line is the fast no-hassle way to get the information you need about this product over the phone to help

**87%\***  
Profit — Tax Free

you make an informed decision. You'll deal with friendly qualified people who will talk to you in clear straightforward language.

Call 0800 00 00 80 now, or contact your financial adviser, and you'll find that your principles needn't stop you making a profit.

### The plus points of profit with principles

- Proven track record with good growth prospects.
- All profits are tax-free.
- Invest a lump sum (minimum £1,000) or monthly payments of £50 or more.
- Managed by the UK's leading ethical investment company.
- Investment in successful companies which are helping rather than harming the world.

### Get on the Blue Line

0800 00 00 80

We're here to take your call 8 to 8 Weekdays, 10 to 4 Weekends.

FRIENDS PROVIDENT

FRIENDS PROVIDENT THE BLUE LINE LIMITED IS A REPRESENTATIVE ONLY OF THE FRIENDS PROVIDENT INVESTMENT GROUP WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY. THE VALUE OF ANY INVESTMENT, AND ANY INCOME FROM IT, IS NOT GUARANTEED AND CAN GO UP AND DOWN DEPENDING ON INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. TAX LEGISLATION MAY CHANGE. \*BASED ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUST OVER 5 YEARS TO THE 31ST JULY 1997. ALL FIGURES ON AN OFFER TO 500 SALES WITH GROSS INCOME REINVESTED. SOURCE: HENRY JONES. YOUR CALL MAY BE RECORDED FOR YOUR SECURITY.

## PEOPLES PHONE

Britain's Biggest Specialist

Free hands-free kit



### FREE HANDS-FREE

- Now you can talk and drive with both hands on the steering wheel

### TOP BRAND DIGITAL PHONE

- Nokia 1611

### FREE CALLS EVERY MONTH

- 15 minutes free per month — forever
- per second billing with

VODAFONE

ONLY **£19.99** (inc. VAT)

180 stores nationwide

to place an order or for your nearest store

call free 0800 10 11 12

Offer is subject to status, availability and connection to a Vodafone GSM tariff at £35.00 inc VAT on a new number to a new standard airtime contract. Offer is not available in conjunction with any other offers. Offer ends 31st July 1997.

# Extension costs couple their home



John and Patricia Fowler with their children Nathan, Courtenay and Rana, whose original claim for damages has cost Margaret and Tom Batten, right, their house after a series of court hearings

AN EXTENSION should have given Tom and Margaret Batten the house they always wanted. Instead they are having to sell their home to foot a legal bill after a dispute with neighbours over the work.

The Battens spent £25,000 adding a bathroom and fourth bedroom to the £100,000 house in Stoke Gifford, near Bristol. They agreed to pay John Fowler and his wife Patricia, £500 compensation after builders damaged a path and a fence between their two houses. But after a series of hearings at which they tried to reduce their costs, they have found themselves liable for a legal bill of £24,000 — 40 times greater than the original compensation.

Mrs Batten, 57, said yesterday:

"Our trust in the law has completely gone — the lawyers are the only ones to win. We just wanted to improve the house and now we have to sell it."

The dispute began in 1994 when the Battens were given permission to build the two-storey extension. The Fowlers objected after the damage to their property, and their solicitor sent more than 40 letters in an effort to stop nuisance on their land. Eventually the Fowlers took the Battens to the High Court in Bristol claiming that builders had trespassed after Mr Fowler was hit in the chest by brick chippings and

scaffolding came within a few feet of his daughter's bedroom.

A judge agreed that the Battens were guilty of technical trespass but work was allowed to continue with a High Court injunction against further trespass or nuisance. Damage to the Fowlers' property was estimated at £232 but the Battens offered to pay £500 to make up for any nuisance.

Although the award itself was modest, the costs began to escalate when barristers were brought in to deal with the Battens' appeal for the case to be dealt with in the County rather than the High Court. After a

series of hearings, the judge ruled against the Battens and awarded both sides' costs against them: £9,000 for their own lawyer and £15,000 for the Fowlers'. Mr Batten, 57, a security guard, said: "We cannot afford to pay so we have no choice but to sell the house. This case should have gone to arbitration or at worst to county court. The damage was very minor and we have always said we would pay to put it right but the amount of costs is just ridiculous." Mrs Batten added: "This has destroyed us."

Mr Fowler, 43, a senior credit and risk manager with a bank in Bristol,

who has three teenage children, said: "I wouldn't necessarily justify the legal costs but barristers are expensive. They are highly educated and articulate professionals with support staff to pay. I had no guarantee of getting my money back and as far as I am concerned my lawyers have justified their fees. I agree the lawyers are the winners but why should I be out of pocket when I was wronged?"

Of the Battens, who live in the house with their daughter, Eve, 19, Mr Fowler said: "I shall be glad to see the back of them and I expect they feel the same way about us. The

building work was endangering my family, I was hit in the chest by a flying stone chip and I had children to think of. The incidents on their own may seem trivial but they were a nuisance. We chose the High Court because we wanted the building work stopped quickly and our solicitor said that was the best route."

The Bristol solicitors Wansboroughs Willey Hargrave, which represented the Fowlers, said yesterday: "The substantial legal costs incurred were an unfortunate but inevitable result of Mr and Mrs Batten's decision to contest each and every aspect of our clients' claim at a series of hearings as they had every right to do."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Slow start for gun handover

Only one in ten of the legally registered handguns in Scotland that must be surrendered to police before September 30 has been handed over since July 1, the start of the scheme.

Police forces said yesterday that despite the government warning that gun owners who failed to hand in their weapons faced jail sentences of up to ten years, many handgun owners appeared to be holding on to their weapons until the last moment.

### Dog starved

David De Wolfe, 42, from Henbury, Bristol, who starved a dog belonging to his ex-girlfriend to the brink of death, has been given a four-month jail sentence for cruelty and banned from ever owning animals by Bristol magistrates. The dog is recovering.

### Beef sales recover

Sales of British beef in June to individual shoppers reached pre-BSE levels. But prices for farmers were about 97p a kg liveweight, against 120p before the crisis in 1995. The Meat and Livestock Commission spoke of "a huge vote of confidence" by consumers.

### Good on paper

A newspaper office will become a £50 million leisure complex as part of Manchester's redevelopment following last summer's IRA bombing. The largely derelict former Mirror Group plant has themed restaurants, shops, music arenas and a cinema.

### Firearms raid

A man was arrested after 400 guns were recovered by police from the home of a firearms dealer in Brighton. A workshop containing equipment used to adapt guns was also raided, as were addresses in Blackheath, southeast London, and Dartford, Kent.

### Epstein tribute

Liverpool leisure and tourism committee is expected to dedicate the city's Neptune Theatre to the memory of Brian Epstein, manager of the Beatles, after all-party pressure for a commemoration of the impresario who died in 1967.

## Boy saw mother stabbed

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A BOY OF 8 tried to fight off a man as he stabbed his mother to death, a court was told.

Brady Douglas hit Errol Graham, 24, over the head with an iron bar as he plunged a kitchen knife into his mother's heart, it was claimed. He then dialled 999 as his mother lay dying. Bristol Crown Court was told.

Mr Graham denies murdering Barbara Wallace, 33, at her maisonette in St Jude's, Bristol. The court was told that Brady was woken by the

sound of Mr Graham breaking into their home at night.

Roderick Denyer, for the prosecution, said Miss Wallace had a brief relationship with Mr Graham two years earlier but was a single mother living with Brady and his half-sister, Sacha, 11, at the time.

Mr Denyer said: "Brady later told police that he had woken up when he heard two kicks at the door and went to his mother's room. She looked out of the window and

could not see anybody so they went back to bed." He said Brady rushed to his mother's room again when he heard her scream a few minutes later and saw a man lunging at her.

Mr Denyer added: "Brady had an iron bar from a football game and he hit the man with it." His mother screamed and fell to the floor and the man fled. Brady later identified Mr Graham, from Horfield, Bristol, as the killer. The hearing continues.

## Workman fined over lift-shaft fall

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WORKS contractor who escaped death by inches after plunging down a Hilton Hotel lift shaft was fined yesterday for breaking health and safety regulations.

Timothy Mannix, 33, the joint head of an "incompetent" company dismantling a service lift, had one of his ears nearly torn off and spent three days unconscious. Southwark Crown Court, London, was told the accident happened after his firm, Workside, was asked to remove the lift at the Langham Hilton Hotel, London.

John McGuinness, for the prosecution, said the job should not have been given to Workside. "They are not a specialist company. They are a general labouring

contracting company which does work like decorating rooms and drainage." The firm's approach to the work was "thoroughly bad and unsafe".

While the lift was being dismantled it was supported by a chain slung over a metal bar placed across the lift well. The bar was only an inch wider than the shaft. As Mannix stood on the lift floor it plunged 27ft from the ground floor into the sub-basement. His overalls snagged on a metal projection in the shaft.

Rescuers found Mannix unconscious, hanging upside down, his head 12 inches from the metal floor. His left ear was hanging by a "slender thread" of flesh. A surgeon sewed it back.

Mannix, from Edgware, north London, admitted breaching the regulations. Roy Roebuck, for Mannix, said his client "felt like a fall guy" because he had not negotiated the contract. He was fined £200 and ordered to pay £250 prosecution costs.

Judge Mota Singh, QC, said: "Clearly Workside was totally incompetent to undertake this sort of work but I accept you had no part in securing this contract. This was done by your co-director, who pleaded guilty and was fined in the magistrates' court. But you were on the site, it was your decision to proceed." Yesterday Hilton International Hotels (UK) was found not guilty of four health and safety offences after the judge decided it was not the employer.

Cardholders may be asked to pay interest on their credit cards. Interest rates are subject to change. For Purchase and Balance Transfers, interest will be charged on a daily basis at the standard rate of 1.99% per month (19.9% APR (variable)). 14.9% APR (variable) for cash advances. "Special Promotional Balance Transfer Rate" of 12.9% APR (fixed) only applies to balances transferred within 6 weeks of opening your account. 1 cardholder and 1 cardholder only apply to both the Alliance & Leicester and the Alliance & Leicester credit cards. Full details available on request and are subject to the relevant terms. Within 24 hours of your account opening, you must agree to the terms of the credit card. The standard money back on purchases is 0.5% up to £2,000 and 1% above. As an introductory offer, on purchases made as 100% down as 1%, Money Back on purchases up to £2,000 and 1% above. Handling charge of 1.5% (12 minimum) payable on Cash Advances. For security and warning purposes, telephone calls will be recorded and monitored. Required Details: Alliance & Leicester plc, Registered Office: 49 Park Lane, London W1K 1QJ. Company Number: 3267711. Registered in England. Authorised as a bank under the Banking Act 1987. Member of the Bank of England. All information correct as 19/07/97.

**ALLIANCE & LEICESTER**

**VISA**

Collect pounds, not points, with Britain's leading money back credit card

Apply today

CALL FREE  
0500 83 83 83

Quoting Ref: **XOSN**  
Lines open 24 hours a day,  
365 days a year

The new Alliance & Leicester Credit Card gives you money back on every purchase, every year! There's no other card quite like it in the U.K. today!

Just look at all the advantages you enjoy:

- ▶ money back on every purchase, every year
- ▶ double money back of up to 2% in 1997
- ▶ low interest rate of 17.9% APR
- ▶ 12.9% APR on transferred balances\* until they are repaid
- ▶ no annual fee — unlike many other credit cards
- ▶ up to 46 days interest-free credit
- ▶ free Purchase Protection

**ALLIANCE & LEICESTER**

YES — please send my FREE information pack on the new Alliance & Leicester money back credit card.

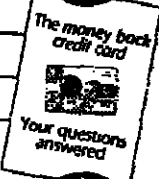
Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms Name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_ XOSN

Post to: Alliance & Leicester Credit Cards, FREEPOST, 58-62 Hagley Road, Birmingham B16 8BR. (No stamp needed.)



**TLS**

THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

"As a reader for many years, I've found  
The TLS provocative, stimulating,  
irritating, informative — and always  
a high priority" Noam Chomsky

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER  
SAVE 27% OFF UK COVER PRICE

For almost a century, serious readers the world over, have turned to The Times Literary Supplement for intelligent, thoughtful criticism of literature, scholarship and the visual and performing arts.

The TLS is available through your newsagents every Friday, or if you take out a one year subscription you can save £28 on the UK cover price, enjoying the convenience of copies mailed first class to you every week (or airmail if overseas).

Securing your copy of the world's leading literary review couldn't be easier. Simply complete the coupon below or telephone our credit card hotline.

Yes, I would like to subscribe for 1 year (52 issues) and save 27% off the UK cover price.

☐ UK £76 ☐ EUROPE £87 ☐ REST OF WORLD £112 ☐ US \$117 ☐ CAN-US \$160

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I enclose a cheque for £/\$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to The Times Literary Supplement

SS7AU7

☐ Please charge £/\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my Visa / Mastercard / Amex

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRY DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Please send coupon and payment to: TLS Subscriptions, PO Box 14, Harold Hill, Romford RM3 8EQ

(US/Canada to: TLS Subscriptions, PO Box 3000, Denville NJ 07834, USA)

This offer is open to new subscribers only and closes on 30 September 1997. ☐ Tick if you do not wish to receive mail from companies we feel may be of interest

**CREDIT CARD HOTLINE: +44(0) 1708 378 379**

هذه امانة الاصل





Friars are praying that global warming will not wreck their medieval priory, reports **Ruth Gledhill**

**Father McGreal at the riverside Carmelite retreat**

## Wesley Carr

))

10

As you never know what you may need, the Comet Price Index contains the top brands on all types of electrical goods available at your local Comet store.

1. **NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. **ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. **CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 6. **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 7. **E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 8. **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 9. **SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 10. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 11. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 12. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 13. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 14. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 15. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 16. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 17. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 18. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 19. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 20. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 21. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 22. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 23. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 24. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 25. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 26. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 27. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 28. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 29. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 30. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 31. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 32. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 33. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 34. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 35. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 36. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 37. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 38. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 39. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 40. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 41. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 42. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 43. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 44. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 45. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 46. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 47. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 48. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 49. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 50. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 51. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 52. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 53. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 54. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 55. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 56. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 57. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 58. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 59. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 60. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 61. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 62. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 63. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 64. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 65. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 66. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 67. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 68. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 69. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 70. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 71. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 72. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 73. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 74. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 75. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 76. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 77. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 78. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 79. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 80. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 81. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 82. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 83. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 84. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 85. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 86. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 87. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 88. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 89. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 90. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 91. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 92. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 93. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 94. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 95. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 96. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 97. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 98. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 99. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 100. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 101. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 102. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 103. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 104. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 105. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 106. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 107. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 108. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 109. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 110. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 111. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 112. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 113. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 114. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 115. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 116. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 117. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 118. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 119. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 120. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 121. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 122. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 123. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 124. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 125. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 126. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 127. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 128. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 129. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 130. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 131. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 132. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 133. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 134. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 135. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 136. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 137. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 138. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 139. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 140. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 141. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 142. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 143. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 144. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 145. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 146. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 147. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 148. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 149. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 150. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 151. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 152. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 153. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 154. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 155. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 156. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 157. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 158. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 159. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 160. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 161. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 162. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 163. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 164. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 165. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 166. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 167. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 168. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 169. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 170. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 171. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 172. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 173. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 174. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 175. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 176. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 177. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 178. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 179. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 180. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 181. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 182. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 183. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 184. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 185. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 186. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 187. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 188. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 189. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 190. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 191. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 192. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 193. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 194. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 195. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 196. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 197. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 198. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 199. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 200. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 201. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 202. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 203. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 204. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 205. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 206. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 207. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 208. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 209. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
 210. **PRINT CITY** \_\_\_\_\_  
 211. **PRINT STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 212. **PRINT ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
 213. **PRINT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 214. **PRINT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
 215. **PRINT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 216. **PRINT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 217. **PRINT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
 218. **PRINT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_<

*Simon Jenkins, The Times*



هبة امنية الأصل

**SURRENDERING  
YOUR  
PENSION  
TO REALLY  
CASH IN,  
CALL SEC NOW**

[The page contains several lines of extremely faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]

**SEC**

**REGISTERED ENDOWMENT**

**CONTRACTS PLC**



الحد في الجبل

# Credo

## Mysterious faces of Mary Magdalene

THE MARY MAGDALENE SOCIETY, a group of people who believe that Mary Magdalene was the first wife of Jesus, has announced that it will publish a book of her 'mysterious faces'.

The book, which is being published by the society's publisher, will contain a series of portraits of Mary Magdalene, each based on a different theory of her appearance.

The society's founder, John G. Jackson, said that the book was a result of his research into the life of Mary Magdalene. He said that he had discovered that she had been married to Jesus and that she had been the first to see him after his resurrection.

The book is expected to be published in the autumn of 1997. It will be available in paperback and hardcover formats.

# The Governor, reason and Plot

THE GOVERNOR, a book by the author of 'The Last Governor', is now available in paperback and hardcover formats.

The book is a collection of essays on the life and times of the Governor of the British Virgin Islands, Sir John G. Jackson.

The book is expected to be published in the autumn of 1997. It will be available in paperback and hardcover formats.

# Chipmunks complete trip around the world

By MARK HENDERSON

THREE RAF pilots yesterday completed their flight around the world in two Chipmunk training aircraft.

Squadron leaders Tony Cowan, 51, Ced Hughes, 63, and Bill Purchase, 60, landed at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, having taken off from London City airport on May 20. Their 14,000-mile journey included a 5,000-mile flight across Russia never before completed by a foreign pilot.

The two Chipmunks and their pilots, who flew the piston-engined planes on a rota basis, will be at the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford today.

Squadron Leader Purchase said the three pilots were delighted to have made it home in time for the Fairford show. "We are thrilled to be here, and tired but excited after the expedition," he said last night. "We hope people will realise the extent of our achievement when they see the tiny size of the Chipmunks and realise quite how far we've been in them."

Exercise Northern Venture took place at the invitation of the Russian air force and has plotted an air route across Russia for commercial and private aircraft. The RAF pilots were joined for the Russian leg of the trip by Major Yuri Vostokov, who flew in the Chipmunks' Islander support plane and negotiated tricky landings at remote Siberian airfields.

"Yuri was a fantastic asset, without whom we could never have flown across Russia," Squadron Leader Purchase said. "Russia is not an easy place to fly, especially without local knowledge, and he made it possible. He was a military man and his attitude made it very easy for us to get along and work well together."

Major Vostokov guided the Chipmunks to a safe landing on an open field at one stop when the main airfield was flooded and negotiated difficult weather conditions and hazardous mountain landings. A similar flight across Siberia planned last year had to be abandoned because of forest fires east of the Urals.

The Chipmunks were diverted by bad weather in Alaska and made several unscheduled stops in the Rockies because of difficult flying conditions. "We were disappointed to lose so much time on the North American leg of the trip," Squadron Leader Purchase said.

"The conditions were terrible, and we had to put down at mountain airfields rather more than we had hoped. We had hoped to get to Fairford ten days ago."

The expedition was met by a convoy of Chipmunk owners and factory workers in Toronto, where the aircraft were built by de Havilland. Squadron Leader Purchase said: "Virtually the whole factory turned out to meet us in Toronto, which was a fantastic feeling. The place is really the home of the Chipmunk, and they brought out old Tiger Moths and Harvards to welcome the planes home."

The Chipmunks were displayed in the Rockliffe Museum in Ottawa when the pilots stopped off there.

The two-seater planes, which can fly on four-star petrol, were fitted with auxiliary tanks and global-positioning navigation systems. The team had to replace 50 spark plugs, two generators, a propeller, a wheel and a brake system during the expedition.

The Chipmunk served as a training aircraft for the armed forces for 50 years before it was taken out of service in March. The Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and Prince Andrew all learnt to fly in the plane, which has been replaced by the Bulldog and the Slingsby Firefly.



Squadron leaders Hughes, Cowan and Purchase

## SURRENDERING YOUR ENDOWMENT? TO REALLY CASH IN, CALL SEC NOW.

You're about to surrender your endowment policy back to your life company. You're about to lose money you shouldn't.

Call SEC now - we can offer a much better price for your policy. With the extra cash released, you can now treat yourself to that car, holiday, home improvement or whatever you want.

Phone our friendly, helpful staff today to really cash in so you can really splash out tomorrow.

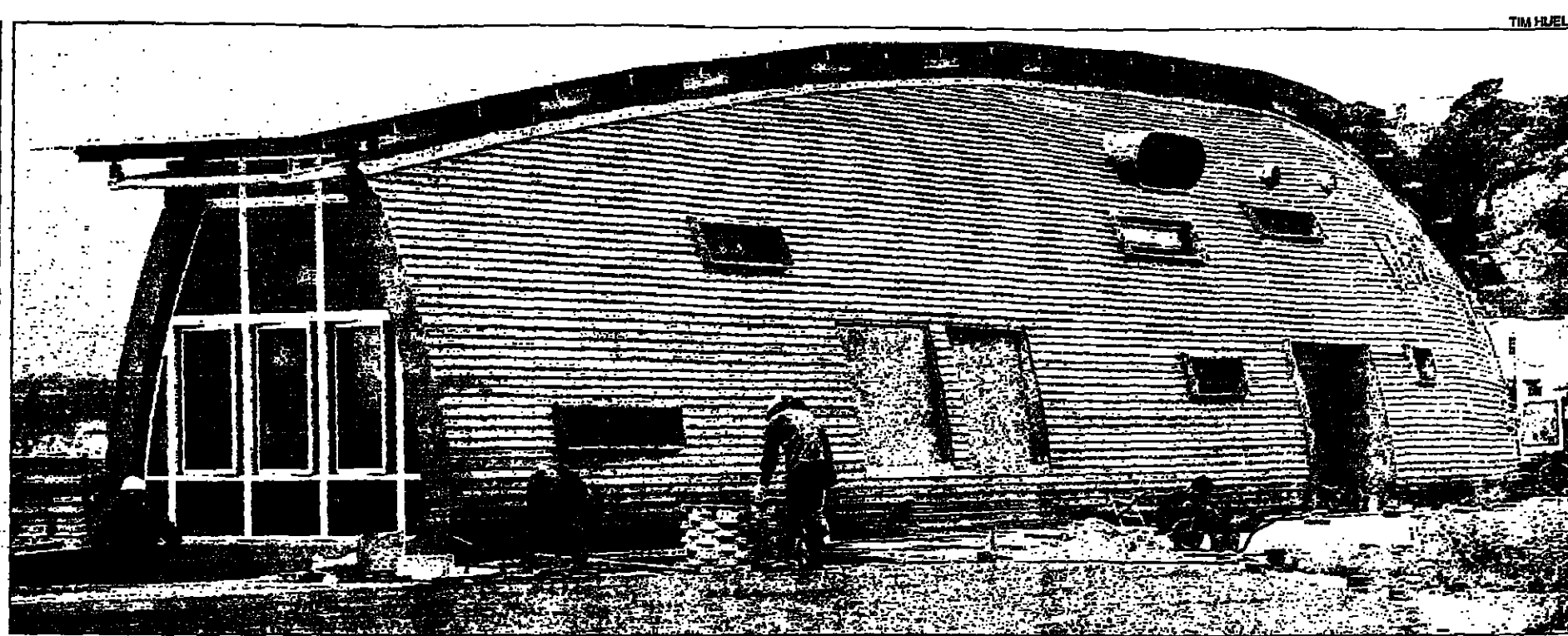
Your policy must be at least 8 years old and satisfy our selection criteria.

### SEC

LONDON, HEAD OFFICE: TEL: 0181 207 1066 FAX: 0161 207 4950  
MANCHESTER OFFICE: TEL: 01625 255455 FAX: 01625 255456  
BRISTOL OFFICE: TEL: 0117 930 8889 FAX: 0117 930 8855

AP MM SECURITISED ENDOWMENT CONTRACTS PLC

London, Head Office: SEC House, 49 Theobald Street, Borehamwood, Herts WD6 4RZ.  
Manchester Office: 1st Floor, Lindow House, Beach Lane, Winslow, Cheshire SK9 5SR.  
Bristol Office: 33 Corn Street, Bristol BS1 1HT.



Jersey's new seafront café has been called a navigational hazard, compared to a beached whale and a pregnant armadillo, and dubbed a monstrosity by a local newspaper. So when others likened it to an upturned hull, the promoters asked Tony Bullimore, the sailor with an inside view on the subject, to open the café today.

## Café rides tide of controversy

By MARCUS BINNEY

JERSEY'S new seafront café has been called a navigational hazard, compared to a beached whale and a pregnant armadillo, and dubbed a monstrosity by a local newspaper. So when others likened it to an upturned hull, the promoters asked Tony Bullimore, the sailor with an inside view on the subject, to open the café today.

The architect, Will Alsop, relishes the nicknames for his buildings. His Cardiff Bay visitors' centre, known as The Jam Roly-Poly, attracted two million visitors. In Marseilles, his powder-coated blue steel regional headquarters was christened *La Maison du Smurf*.

Mr Alsop delights in the fact that the building almost exactly follows his original sketch, dashed off in an hour when Derek Mason, a Jersey architect, called for his help in replacing a tacky café. Mr Alsop says his design began as a fish, with clusters of tables outside to look like a swarm of minnows.

Mr Mason said: "When complaints about the 'shipwrecked hull' started, we did some research which showed that in the last century the site was a boat-building yard. I like to say this is the 763rd boat built on the site." That will please Mr Bullimore, who spent four days in his capsized yacht during January's round-the-world race.

Like all the best expressionist and sculptural architecture, the café, *La Frégate*, looks dramatically different as you move around it. End-on it may look like the back of a Hercules transporter, but the sides swell out as strongly as those of an 18th-century man o'war.

The structure stands in its own miniature dry dock, its 150 tonnes supported on 24 stout concrete columns. The hull is clad, clinker style, in short strips of Canadian cedar which sea breezes are expected to turn quickly to silver.

Entrance is across a series of short bridges, the lower part of each descending to form the walkway and the upper rising to become a canopy.

To admit light, Mr Alsop has split his hull down the centre and introduced a glass top.

1. Reduces CO<sub>2</sub> Emission

2. Tyre size: 205 - width in mm, 65 - ratio of height to width (in this case, 65% of 205mm), R - radial, 15 - rim diameter in inches.

3. A code representing the maximum load carrying capacity. In this case, 94 represents 870kg.

4. Speed rating. For cars, this ranges from 'S' to 'Z' - the higher the letter, the greater the speed capability. 'V' means this tyre is capable of sustained speeds up to 150mph. Please just take our word for it.

5. Coefficient of Rolling Resistance. This is the rolling resistance of the tyre expressed as a percentage of wheel load. In plain English, the lower the rolling resistance of the tyre, the lower your fuel consumption. A figure of 1.0 or less is every tyre engineer's aim.

6. USA law requires the maximum load rating per wheel to be shown.

7. More construction details - music to a Continental tyre engineer's ears. Under the tread of this tyre, there are 5 plies (belts): 1 rayon, 2 steel, 2 nylon.

8. The maximum inflation pressure. USA law requires this to be shown.

9. E = tyre complies with numerical values to ECE standard 800: (A Good Thing).

10/11/12. Manufacturer's guarantee that the tyre meets 'USA' requirements for tread life, evenness, braking performance, and temperature stability at higher speeds.

13. Approval number to ECE standard R80 for this tyre. (See: we told you it was a good thing).

14. The Department of Transportation oversees tyre safety standards in the USA. (Or 'tire' safety as they call it).

15. Tyre construction type. This tyre, like all modern tyres, is tubeless.

16. Manufacturer's code for tyre factory, size, type and week and year of manufacture. Our engineers would like to autograph all their work, but we have to draw the line somewhere. Memorise all this fascinating information, and you'll be able to swap tyre anecdotes all evening. You'll also be able to make a well-informed decision next time you have to choose a new tyre.

And if you ever go to a fancy dress party, you'll be perfect as a German tyre engineer.

## ONE DAY YOU MAY MEET A GERMAN TYRE ENGINEER AT A PARTY. BE PREPARED.

A German tyre engineer's small talk tends to be very well informed.

Here, all you spend your entire life thinking about the finer points of tyre design - he, all Continental's tyre engineers do - then the weather, the season, the car or your holiday plans and little things compared with your patterns, schedules and expanding needs.

So, if you meet one of a party, the only way to avoid looking out more than you might want to know about tyre construction is to have all the necessary tyre knowledge at your fingertips so you can give as good as you get.

1. Manufacturer's logo. When choosing tyres, always look for the Continental logo.

2. Tyre size: 205 - width in mm, 65 - ratio of height to width (in this case, 65% of 205mm), R - radial, 15 - rim diameter in inches.

3. A code representing the maximum load carrying capacity. In this case, 94 represents 870kg.

4. Speed rating. For cars, this ranges from 'S' to 'Z' - the higher the letter, the greater the speed capability. 'V' means this tyre is capable of sustained speeds up to 150mph. Please just take our word for it.

5. Coefficient of Rolling Resistance. This is the rolling resistance of the tyre expressed as a percentage of wheel load. In plain English, the lower the rolling resistance of the tyre, the lower your fuel consumption. A figure of 1.0 or less is every tyre engineer's aim.

6. USA law requires the maximum load rating per wheel to be shown.

7. More construction details - music to a Continental tyre engineer's ears. Under the tread of this tyre, there are 5 plies (belts): 1 rayon, 2 steel, 2 nylon.

8. The maximum inflation pressure. USA law requires this to be shown.

9. E = tyre complies with numerical values to ECE standard 800: (A Good Thing).

10/11/12. Manufacturer's guarantee that the tyre meets 'USA' requirements for tread life, evenness, braking performance, and temperature stability at higher speeds.

### Continental









Matthew Banks, a former army officer who lost his seat, with his wife Jane and their twins. She lost her job as his Commons secretary and their income dropped by £60,000

**F**or Matthew Banks, the former Tory MP for Southampton, the general election result was a double blow. Not only did the 36-year-old former army officer lose his job as an MP but his wife, Jane, lost hers as his secretary in the House of Commons.

The dual loss of income, worth more than £60,000, was felt more keenly at the Banks' home because there were two extra mouths to feed. Mrs Banks gave

birth to twins, Angus and Ella, on April 14 in the middle of the election campaign.

Mrs Banks had worked at the Commons since the 1980s for several Tory MPs before she met Mr Banks. They married in December 1992, just before he was elected. "If you lose an MP's salary (£43,300) and you lose the average salary

## THE BANKER'S TALE

of a member's secretary — £20,000 to £25,000 — then of course it makes an impact," he said.

Although Mrs Banks worked in the Commons for several years' service, she received her statutory redundancy payment of £10,000. That made a difference of several

thousand pounds. "Our circumstances would be particularly difficult if I didn't have business interests to fall back on," he said.

Mr Banks, who once worked for Barclays Bank, had maintained a small financial consultancy business while an MP. "I am fortunate that I never lost touch with what was going on outside the West-

minster goldfish bowl. There are a number of my colleagues who are in some trouble at the moment."

He is currently developing his "very, very small business" to manage people's financial assets.

"We are moving towards an entirely professional political class but what we haven't done is bring the financial rewards or other compensation to the level that would be similar to the United States," he said.

## THE BACKBENCHER'S TALE

**J**im Couchman could be forgiven for not anticipating his current plight. He was defending the normally safe Tory berth of Gillingham with a 16,638 majority.

But May 1 was not a normal day, Mr Couchman. 55, was ousted by a Labour swing of more than 16 per cent. He is still recovering from the shock.

"It is a bit like bereavement," he said. "No one anticipated how far things would go."

Before entering Parliament in 1983, Mr Couchman ran a successful chain of pubs in London. Although he remained involved during most of his years at Westminster, he pulled out of the business two years ago and he has nothing to fall back on. His wife is a magistrate but does not work.

"I have put out a lot of applications and have had no

joy," he said. "I have even tried one or two headhunters. They are all very charming but don't have anything you are looking for. I have applied for a few public-sector appointments, a few charities, two or three school bursarships."

He has also looked for jobs from friends in Parliament. "But one of my contacts is somewhat diminished by the slaughter in May, and they are all in Opposition anyway."

His children, who have passed school age, were trying to keep his spirits up, he said. However, despite remaining involved with his constituency, Mr Couchman feels the loss of Parliament keenly. "The worst thing is the empty days and not knowing when they are going to stop. All the doors seem closed at the moment. But I am sure something will turn up."



Couchman: "All the doors seem closed at the moment"

Sir Jim Lester, 65 (Bristol), is a consultant. He has just returned from Papua New Guinea, where he was a Commonwealth election observer. He is taking his children for a holiday in Australia.

Lady Olga Maitland, 53 (Sutton and Chess), a former journalist, is clearing her backlog of constituency papers and continuing her media work. She hopes to write a book.

Gerry Malone, 48 (Wiltshire), is fighting to have his constituency seat declared void after losing by two votes. He is not yet employed. "I am simply concentrating on the court case at the moment so I can't make any commitments."

Kath Mann, 51 (Wye), had a list of telephone numbers prepared in case he lost his seat. "I started ringing at 9.30am," he said. He has found an office in central London and is setting himself up as an aerospace consultant. He believes Tory MPs should practice what they have preached for the last 18 years about finding work. "There is a need to get on your bike. If you belong to the party that believes in job flexibility, you cannot complain when it happens to you."

Paul Marshall, 57 (Bournemouth), is a farmer.

Tony Marlow, 57 (Northampton North), is a farmer in Wales. "I am well and actively employed," he said.

John Marshall, 56 (Hendon South), has gone back to his old career of stockbroking. "I was already working part time for Messrs. Parsons Securities, so it was not hard to move over when I lost my seat. I was already working part time for Messrs. Parsons Securities, so it was not hard to move over when I lost my seat. I was already working part time for Messrs. Parsons Securities, so it was not hard to move over when I lost my seat."

David Martin, 52 (Portsmouth), is a former Tory MP for Southampton. He is now a research worker with Tom King, MP for Bridgwater.

South), is returning to the Bar. He last practised in 1978 before taking up a job with the family caravan business. "I am doing mini-purchases and I hope to be starting to practise in a few months. I am rather excited to be going back. I have to get my career back on a steady course. At the moment politics is a hobby, not a way of life. In many ways, he is glad to be out of Parliament. "It was such an awful government. I was so unhappy."

David Mellor, 48 (Putney), has many business consultancies, some involving the Middle East. He is continuing his media work.

Andrew Mitchell, 41 (Gedding), is merchant banking with Lazard, and pursuing business interests in Nottingham.

Sir Roger Moore, 59 (Faversham), is continuing the insurance broking interests he maintained while in Parliament.

Michael Morris, 60 (Northampton South), owns Modern Personnel Ltd which imports Sri Lankan kitchenware.

Sir Michael Neuber, 63 (Romford), will be going on a month's holiday in mid-August. In mid-September he plans to start work on a light-hearted memoir. "I was the writer and director of *The Blue Review*, a comedy show which was quite famous in its time and did good business at Tory conferences and so on. I don't want to do a heavy set of memoirs but I would love to do something humorous about the Thatcher years. I'm also a semi-professional cyclist and I'm taking the chance to practise for an hour every day. I don't imagine I should have to make a living that way as I have a pension but it is nice to get it going again. I'm keeping in touch with Westminster as the rector's wooden at St Margaret's Church, spent 23 years there and got quite

attached to it so I will certainly be keen to get back. You have not seen the last of me yet."

David Nicholson, 52 (Taunton), is a Commons researcher.

Phillip Oppenheim, 41 (Amber Valley), is finishing a political novel. Having had a small majority, he was more than ready for defeat. "I have loved being out," he said. "The freedom to be and to do what you want, to work with people of your choice. There are a lot of people who are in shell shock. They are in denial."

Sir Irvine Patnick, 67, (Sheffield Hallam), has set up a political consultancy, Key Turn Ltd with another defeated Conservative, James Paussey, 63, (Rugby and Kenilworth). Mr Paussey is also a non-executive director of a market research company, Opinion Research Business, and is looking for a publisher for a novel. He is keen to advertise his availability as a new Michael Dobbs. "The book's called *Prime Minister's Questions* and it's a thriller about an IRA attack on the Houses of Parliament during Question Time. It also features plenty of political intrigue and a Tory leadership election, so it's rather topical at the moment. I am really enjoying myself and discovering that there

really is life after Parliament."

Elizabeth Peacock, 59 (Bartley and Spenn), is working for anti-abortion pressure groups.

David Porter, 49 (Waverley), is setting himself up as a freelance public relations consultant and journalist. "I have only just got started this month. I already have some local clients," he said. "I am doing a correspondence course in freelance journalism. I am staying in the area. I used to be a teacher and a Conservative agent but I won't go back to either. I would need to be retrained and both would be hard to do after ten years as an MP."

Michael Portillo, 44 (Enfield Southgate), is a part-time adviser on international business development for Kerr McGee, an oil exploration and production company in Oklahoma. He has been doing some broadcasting. Mr Portillo failed to become European Union High Representative in the former Yugoslavia.

William Powell, 48 (Corby), declined to comment.

Tim Radborne, 64 (Lewes), is looking for work linked to his previous career in marketing. He is maintaining his interest in South African affairs. An ex-chairman of the all-party Select Committee on Drug Misuse, he remains involved in campaigning against drugs.

Rod Richards, 50 (Chwyd North West), a former BBC journalist and Welsh Office Minister, is seeking to return to the media.

The Tory party, particularly William Hague's campaign and the Uxbridge by-election. He is campaigning for a "No" vote to devolution in Wales. "It's not as easy as you would think for former ministers. There are many jobs I have a churning at what I see them advertised in the paper. As a former

**'I have never been happier' — Jeremy Hanley, who is out of work**

consultancy, Key Turn Ltd with another defeated Conservative, James Paussey, 63, (Rugby and Kenilworth). Mr Paussey is also a non-executive director of a market research company, Opinion Research Business, and is looking for a publisher for a novel. He is keen to advertise his availability as a new Michael Dobbs. "The book's called *Prime Minister's Questions* and it's a thriller about an IRA attack on the Houses of Parliament during Question Time. It also features plenty of political intrigue and a Tory leadership election, so it's rather topical at the moment. I am really enjoying myself and discovering that there

really is life after Parliament."

Elizabeth Peacock, 59 (Bartley and Spenn), is working for anti-abortion pressure groups.

David Porter, 49 (Waverley), is setting himself up as a freelance public relations consultant and journalist. "I have only just got started this month. I already have some local clients," he said. "I am doing a correspondence course in freelance journalism. I am staying in the area. I used to be a teacher and a Conservative agent but I won't go back to either. I would need to be retrained and both would be hard to do after ten years as an MP."

Michael Portillo, 44 (Enfield Southgate), is a part-time adviser on international business development for Kerr McGee, an oil exploration and production company in Oklahoma. He has been doing some broadcasting. Mr Portillo failed to become European Union High Representative in the former Yugoslavia.

William Powell, 48 (Corby), declined to comment.

Tim Radborne, 64 (Lewes), is looking for work linked to his previous career in marketing. He is maintaining his interest in South African affairs. An ex-chairman of the all-party Select Committee on Drug Misuse, he remains involved in campaigning against drugs.

Rod Richards, 50 (Chwyd North West), a former BBC journalist and Welsh Office Minister, is seeking to return to the media.

The Tory party, particularly William Hague's campaign and the Uxbridge by-election. He is campaigning for a "No" vote to devolution in Wales. "It's not as easy as you would think for former ministers. There are many jobs I have a churning at what I see them advertised in the paper. As a former

consultancy, Key Turn Ltd with another defeated Conservative, James Paussey, 63, (Rugby and Kenilworth). Mr Paussey is also a non-executive director of a market research company, Opinion Research Business, and is looking for a publisher for a novel. He is keen to advertise his availability as a new Michael Dobbs. "The book's called *Prime Minister's Questions* and it's a thriller about an IRA attack on the Houses of Parliament during Question Time. It also features plenty of political intrigue and a Tory leadership election, so it's rather topical at the moment. I am really enjoying myself and discovering that there

really is life after Parliament."

Elizabeth Peacock, 59 (Bartley and Spenn), is working for anti-abortion pressure groups.

David Porter, 49 (Waverley), is setting himself up as a freelance public relations consultant and journalist. "I have only just got started this month. I already have some local clients," he said. "I am doing a correspondence course in freelance journalism. I am staying in the area. I used to be a teacher and a Conservative agent but I won't go back to either. I would need to be retrained and both would be hard to do after ten years as an MP."

Michael Portillo, 44 (Enfield Southgate), is a part-time adviser on international business development for Kerr McGee, an oil exploration and production company in Oklahoma. He has been doing some broadcasting. Mr Portillo failed to become European Union High Representative in the former Yugoslavia.

William Powell, 48 (Corby), declined to comment.

Tim Radborne, 64 (Lewes), is looking for work linked to his previous career in marketing. He is maintaining his interest in South African affairs. An ex-chairman of the all-party Select Committee on Drug Misuse, he remains involved in campaigning against drugs.

Rod Richards, 50 (Chwyd North West), a former BBC journalist and Welsh Office Minister, is seeking to return to the media.

The Tory party, particularly William Hague's campaign and the Uxbridge by-election. He is campaigning for a "No" vote to devolution in Wales. "It's not as easy as you would think for former ministers. There are many jobs I have a churning at what I see them advertised in the paper. As a former

## THE RESEARCHER'S TALE

**A**mid the hordes of young, fresh-faced assistants who scurry around Westminster doing errands for MPs, there is a familiar and surprisingly mature figure that has been spotted. David Nicholson, 52, was MP for Taunton until his Liberal Democrat opponent wiped out his 3,336 majority.

With no family business or previous career outside politics to fall back on, Mr Nicholson has taken up a stopgap opportunity of part-time research work with Tom King, MP for Bridgwater.

As well as run-of-the-mill research for speeches and constituency duties, he is also using his expertise in housing matters by compiling a paper on how to combat massive property developments engulfing the countryside.

He said: "It is short term while I look around for other options. It is mutually beneficial to me and to Tom. We



Nicholson: stopgap

worked very closely in the previous ten years," Mr King said. "David is a great asset. He knows his way around."

The move from MP to assistant poses practical difficulties. He can no longer go to the members' lobby or tea rooms. He is allowed on the terrace only with an MP.

He admitted: "It is not as much fun as before May 1."

## THE PRESS AND PR MEN'S TALE

Charles Lewington: former director of communications at Tory Central Office, poached from *The Express* on Sunday. After writing a short account of the campaign in which he revealed John Major's occasional despair, he is looking to return to the media.

Sheila Goss: former senior Tory press officer who was in charge of liaison with lobby correspondents. She became John Major's personal press officer during the election, a position she continues to hold in an unofficial capacity. She is writing a book on the election campaign.

The Saatchis William Hague finally ended the Tory party's 20-year relationship with Lord Saatchi and his brother Charles. Rows over strategy during the election made the split inevitable.

Sir Tim Bell: key public relations adviser to Baroness Thatcher who worked in an unofficial capacity on the 1997



Tory chicken: redundant

election campaign. Chairman of Lowe Bell Communications, dropped as the leading PR adviser to British Airways this week because of its "outdated" Conservative connections.

Tory Chicken: Noel Flanagan, 39, hired to dress in a chicken costume and challenge Tony Blair to a debate during the election campaign.

## Save Money on International Phone Calls

**India 44p Japan 26p Australia 20p**  
all prices include VAT

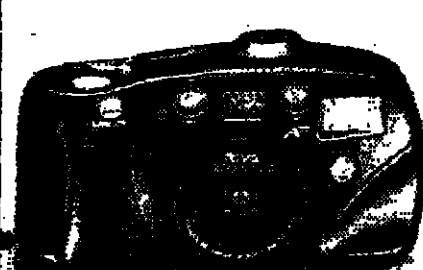
Germany	18p	Pakistan	61p
France	18p	Bangladesh	60p
Malaysia	45p	Kenya	67p
New Zealand	26p	Ghana	53p

For full details and savings to hundreds of other countries call **FREE** on **0800 279 1500**

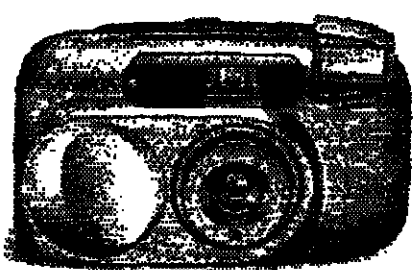
Prices quoted are per minute, 24 hour rates, 7 days per week. Prices correct on 15.7.97

**'It's so much cheaper with OYSTEL!'**

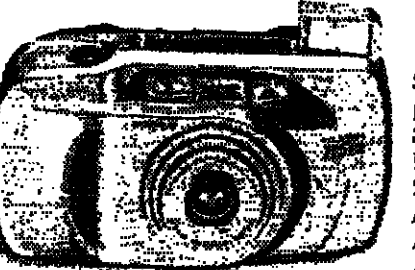
## GET CLOSER TO YOUR FAMILY THIS SUMMER.



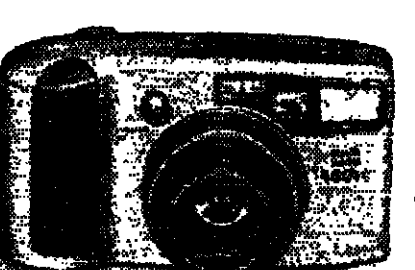
**Pico 38-60mm Zoom.**  
Fully automatic. High quality aspherical Zoom lens. Self timer. Versatile automatic flash with red eye reduction.  
**£89.99**



**T9W 28-70mm Zoom.**  
Ultra wide-angle telephoto Zoom lens. Smooth 'pebble shaped' design. Soft flash for natural looking portraits. Also available in black.  
**£159.99**



**115EX 38-115mm Zoom.**  
Soft flash for natural portraits and close-ups. Sleek 'capsule' design. Fully retractable Zoom lens and flash. Aluminium casing. Also available in black.  
**£189.99**



**140EX 38-140mm Zoom.**  
The world's smallest Zoom compact in its class. Five 'modes' to match your subject. Stylish aluminium casing. Optional remote control.  
**£249.99**

# Germans put on alert for flood exodus

POLAND held a national day of mourning yesterday for 48 known flood victims, while German authorities stood by for mass evacuations in the eastern state of Brandenburg where flood waters have already crept past the highest levels this century.

Around Frankfurt an der Oder, water levels were rising at the rate of two inches an hour early yesterday, but slowed later. Two small villages nearby were evacuated.

Meteorologists said that heavy downpours over Brandenburg, Poland and the Czech Republic, forecast for last night and today, would cause water levels to rise again, but they could not predict when. More than 35,000 police officers, firefighters and German troops were standing by to assist in case of mass evacuations, and border police were ready to drop 1.6 million sandbags from helicopters over the banks of the Oder.

The closure of hundreds of bridges and crossings along a 100-mile stretch of the border with Poland was announced by the Brandenburg Interior Ministry. Motorists were warned to avoid driving to eastern Brandenburg unless absolutely necessary and the 6,000 lorries and 40,000 cars that drive over the Polish-German borders daily were being diverted to crossings further south in Bavaria.

In Poland, while the nation

As Poland mourns its victims of two weeks' torrential rain, homelessness is beckoning for thousands across the border, Deborah Collett reports

mourned, President Kwasniewski rushed through emergency legislation designed to help victims of flooding that has devastated the south of the country. His Government has been criticised for doing too little too late by the opposition, which said a state of emergency should have been declared in the worst-hit areas.

Polish television and radio stations replaced scheduled programmes with information bulletins, and flags flew at half mast. Around 16,000 troops were mobilised to reinforce flood barriers in the south as the country braced itself for another lashing of rain. Thousands of people were put on alert to evacuate their homes.

Since torrential rains began two weeks ago, about 450,000 acres of land have been flooded and more than 132,000 homes evacuated. Each family hit by flooding will receive about £525 under a finance law amended in the Polish parliament on Thursday.

In the Czech Republic, flood tides have left 46 people dead in the country's worst natural calamity this century. The worst flooding caused scores

of road and rail links to be cut and hundreds of businesses were forced to close.

Farms and houses have been destroyed and the total damage is estimated to range from £866 million to £1.73 billion.

The Government, already hit by a huge trade deficit which forced budget cuts to slow demand and defend the weakened crown, earmarked about £190 million for flood relief.

River authorities emptied dams on the Vltava, which flows through Prague, and elsewhere to make way for the next downpour.

Up to 4in of rain were expected to fall in the mountain in the next 24 hours, the Czech Weather Service said. Flood teams were repairing breached defences in expectation of a fresh onslaught.

Cloudbursts from the same general low-pressure system that has battered Poland and the Czech Republic also wreaked havoc in Austria, putting wide areas of the country on flood alert as swollen rivers rose to breach their banks.

Manfred Bauer, a meteorologist, predicted a catastrophe if downpours kept up in the regions of Lower Austria, Styria, Salzburg and Upper Austria this weekend.

In the northern province of Upper Austria, waters from the Trautnitz river washed over a campsite near Grieskirchen where 24 teenagers were rescued by firefighters, the radio reported.

Last week the country suffered its worst flooding this century, with water levels reaching the roofs of houses in the Lower Austrian plains around Vienna.

Leading article, page 21  
Weather reports, page 24



Flooding in Eisenhüttenstadt, Brandenburg, above, and shoulder-deep waters in Wrocław, Poland, below



## South of France resorts braced for gales

BY NICK NUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT  
CORRESPONDENT

TOURISTS in the South of France were warned to take care over the weekend as forecasters predicted gale-force and squally winds that are likely to bring misery to the Côte d'Azur.

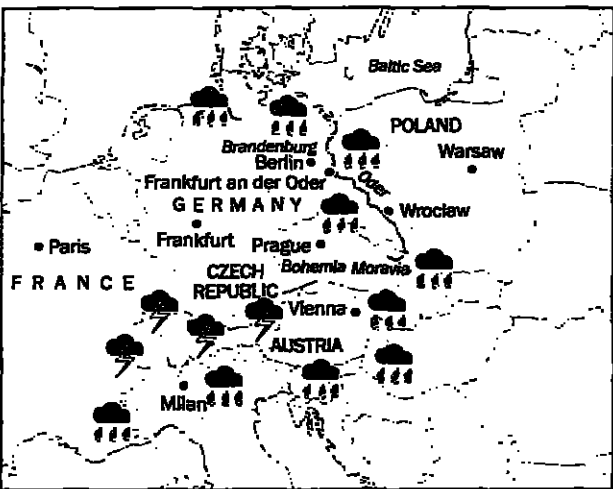
The meeting of high pressure over Western Europe and Britain and low pressure over Central Europe is funneling strong Mistral winds down through Poland, Germany and eastern France to the south.

Dave Cox, of the Meteorological Office's international forecasting section, said wind speeds in Marseilles were already exceeding 35 knots. "The winds will get stronger over the next day or so... and will be gusting a lot more than 40 knots," he said. "If you are on the beach you will be sand-blasted, in a tent blown away and in a small boat it will be unpleasant and very dangerous... a nasty wind."

Ivan Obrusnik, director of the Hydro-Meteorological Institute in Prague, said that flooding in parts of the Czech Republic was worse than the great floods of 1903.

"The ones we are having now are bigger and lasting longer... it is a catastrophe," Dr Obrusnik said. Some mountain regions had seen up to 600mm of rain in five days: the normal average for the time of year would have been up to 25mm. Dr Obrusnik said 600mm was the equivalent to a third of normal annual rainfall.

Computer models of global warming indicate that parts of Europe may see more violent downpours as pollution and rising temperatures alter weather systems. Dieter Kraemer, director of hydrology and water resources at the World Meteorological Organisation in Geneva, said: "In Switzerland we have had extreme rainfall for a couple of weeks." The London Weather Centre said that Britain was unlikely to suffer any ill-effects from the bad weather in Central Europe.



ospin W  
gain E

farmers ca

ia sets sights  
joining EU

# Great meal offers

The Land Before Time Kids Club  
Meal Only £1.99

Includes Dino Chicken Pick Em Ups, Small Fries, and Small Soft drink.  
Available at our Burger King Restaurants from 14th July

Granada Motorway Services is great for all the family. As well as the widest selection of shops, restaurants, amusements and fuel facilities, we're offering great savings for everyone in our special Summer promotion. Here's one to get your holiday off to a great start - available only at Granada.



## Go Granada this Summer

The symbols above represent the selected facilities available at Granada Motorway Services.



partially sighted,  
a missing limb...

...it didn't hinder  
Nelson and it didn't  
stop the crew of the  
Time & Tide.

We are immensely proud of the  
crew's achievements, and have been  
with them every inch of the way.

Zurich Insurance Company,  
Zurich House,  
Stanhope Road, Portsmouth,  
Hampshire PO1 1DL.  
Tel: 01705 422200.

ZURICH



Our 'safe' after  
power restored

هذه امة الاصل



# Jospin will tax rich to gain EMU entry

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S Socialist-led Government will demand billions of francs in extra taxes from its richest companies and citizens next week to bring down the budget deficit and ensure the country qualifies for the European economic and monetary union.

Officials at the Finance Ministry have confirmed government plans to tax the wealthy to bring the level of France's deficit closer to 3 per cent, the theoretical Maastricht ceiling for admission to the single currency.

The finalised tax plans will be announced on Monday, when the Government unveils an audit of state finances expected to show that, without further measures, France is on target for a deficit of between 3.6 and 3.7 per cent. Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, will lay blame for the overshoot on the previous centre-right Government.

Revenue-raising measures are expected to include a 10 per cent increase in the tax on

corporate profits to more than 40 per cent, a rise in employer social security payments and a blow to the wealthy, probably by reversing a 6 per cent income-tax cut for high-earners brought in under the last administration.

Concern that business will bear the brunt of the new tax burden pushed down stocks by nearly 3 per cent on the Paris Bourse yesterday, and the anxious mood was reflected by a cartoon in *Le Monde* showing a cigar-smoking businessman rushing to conceal a chart showing his profits.

By reducing the deficit by about 0.3 per cent, or some Fr30 billion (about £3 billion),

## Farmers call cuts protest

Paris: Two of France's largest agricultural unions yesterday called on farmers to mobilise next week to protest against a controversial plan by the European Commission to cut

the Government is aiming for a 1997 deficit of 3.3 per cent in the hope that this will still be sufficient to ensure admission to EMU.

French ministers have carefully paved the way for Monday's moves, insisting that the Maastricht criteria for EMU should be interpreted "flexibly" and emphasising that the 3 per cent limit is unattainable this year.

The choice of tax rises, to be debated in an extraordinary parliamentary session in September, represents the most delicate task for the Government so far, which must balance campaign promises to avoid further austerity while meeting its treaty commit-

ments without stifling French economic growth.

The Government may also seek contributions from state-owned companies and make additional, unspecified spending cuts.

Small and medium-sized companies are likely to escape tax increases, and the Government insists the new levies will be structured to avoid discouraging investment. Analysts, however, say that any rises in corporate tax and social security charges, which are already weighty, are likely to put off foreign companies contemplating investment in France.

The Government, however, says that despite slow overall growth, large French companies performed well last year and can easily absorb higher tax rates.

Claude Allègre, the Education Minister, observed that "it's normal that those who make big profits in difficult times should contribute more than others".



Admiral Nelson: sent cheese and ale after raid that cost him his arm

# Nelson's loss recalled with gift of cheese

FROM GILES TREMILLET IN MADRID

THE Royal Navy is to commemorate the anniversary of the loss of Nelson's arm — and one of his worst military mistakes — by presenting a Stilton cheese to the Spanish Governor of Tenerife, in the Canaries.

The blue Stilton is to be handed over next week during the bicentenary celebrations of what the Spanish island considers to be its finest hour: when it repelled three attacks by Nelson on the port of Santa Cruz during the Napoleonic Wars.

Nelson was shot in the arm as he scrambled on to the Santa Cruz quay from his cutter. He had ignored his army commanders' advice not to try a third attack. The Spanish garrison was ready for the "surprise" night raid and repelled the attackers, with great loss of life.

The Spanish, however, showed magnanimity. They ferried the injured British soldiers and sailors back to their ships and invited the officers to dine. Nelson, who was having his arm tended to, was unable to attend the dinner. But he sent ale and cheese to his Spanish counterpart, General Gutiérrez.

Nelson's commander-in-chief, Earl St Vincent, later praised his attempt: "You and your companions have certainly deserved success by the greatest degree of heroism and perseverance that was ever exhibited."

The latest cheese is to be handed over by Commander Nick Stanley of the frigate *HMS Grafton*, which is taking an *HMS Victory* cutter replica to the Santa Cruz celebrations.

# Russia sets sights on joining EU

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

RUSSIA is striving to join the European Union and hopes to qualify in due course, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, said yesterday.

He was speaking on a visit to the European Commission in Brussels three days after it started the machinery for taking in Central Europe's former communist states. Mr Chernomyrdin said full membership of the EU was the ultimate aim of Russia's reforms.

He emphasised, however, that Russia was not yet ready. "It is not easy. We are realists. We are busy solving our own problems to become a worthy partner... We want to be full partners on this Continent."

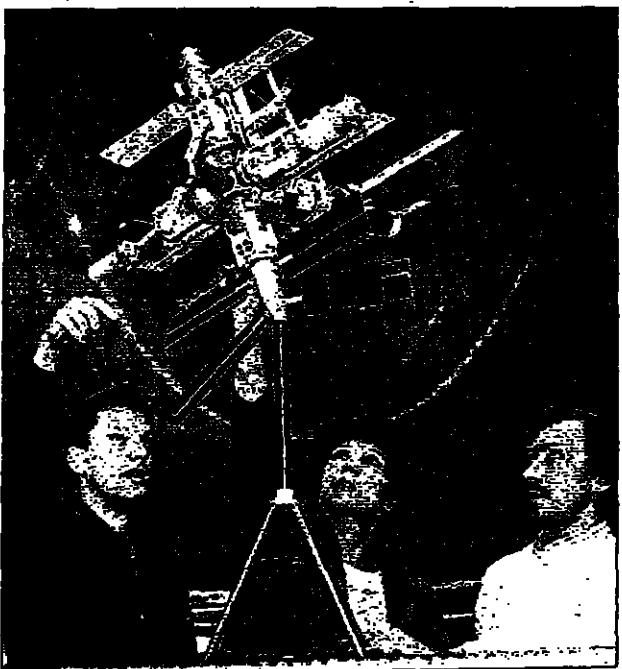
Speaking after talks with Jacques Santer, the Commission President, Mr Chernomyrdin was amplifying a statement on Russia's EU aspirations made last year by President Yeltsin. The President's remark that Russia wanted to join the EU was not deemed serious at the time,

but it unsettled member governments which are already worried about the economic and political costs of fulfilling their pledge to embrace the former Soviet bloc states of Central Europe.

The Commission this week decided that Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and the Czech Republic should all be invited to start accession talks with a view to membership in about 2002. Mr Chernomyrdin said Russia did not expect special compensation from the EU to balance its lost income from trade with its former allies.

While welcoming Moscow's eagerness to join the Union, EU officials played down the prospect of a Russian application in the next few years. "They are nowhere near being ready to integrate their economy with ours, let alone signing on to all that that implies in political union," one diplomat said.

Letters, page 21



Scientists at Mission Control Centre near Moscow using a model of Mir to discuss its problems

# Mir 'safe' after power restored

FROM ROBIN LODGE AT FLIGHT CONTROL CENTRE

REPAIRS to Mir, the stricken space station, may be put off until the arrival of a replacement crew next month, Russian officials said yesterday.

Mir lost power and alignment after a crew member accidentally disconnected a cable to the main computer earlier this week. But all power was restored to the main block yesterday after Flight Engineer Aleksandr Lazutkin worked all night to rectify the error.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, said that Mir was "safe". The space mission should continue, he added. But the delay may mean aborting plans for May when the British-born NASA physicist on board, to enter the station's depressurised Spektr module and reconnect cables to its solar panels.

Sergei Krikalyov, deputy director of the mission, said it was very likely that this would be left to the relief crew. Flight Controller Vladimir Solovoy

expressed concern that stress could make the present crew "less attentive, precise or fast during repairs".

The crew have been ordered to rest for two days. They have been working much of the time in total darkness, with all but essential systems closed down.

If the operation is delayed, it will almost certainly mean a postponement of the mission by Leopold Eyharts, the French astronaut with the new crew. Alain Fournier-Sicre, head of the European Space Agency's mission in Russia, said M Eyharts would be unable to start his scientific projects on Mir until the repairs were completed.

□ Pasadena: NASA engineers have solved the software problem that necessitated resets of the overloaded Mars Pathfinder computer and slowed transmission of pictures and other data. A software change will be transmitted today, the project manager, said.

We know this might sound a little unusual but we'd like you to think less of us.

THE SAAB 900i, ONLY £15,500 ON THE ROAD.

To arrange a test drive call 0800 626 556.



£1999 PER MONTH PLUS INITIAL DEPOSIT. CONTRACT HIRE SCHEME FOR BUSINESS USERS ONLY. TYPICAL EXAMPLE: SAAB 900i. Period of hire = 48 months. Deposit = £3,264.29. Monthly payments = 47x£199.00. On the road cash price = £15,500.00.

TO SAAB INFORMATION CENTRE, FREEPOST WC4524, LONDON WC1B 3BR. PLEASE SEND FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SAAB 900 □ SAAB 9000 CD □ SAAB 9000CS □ SAAB 9000CS (SDR) □  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ T13  
Present car make & model: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of reg: \_\_\_\_\_ Age if under 18: \_\_\_\_\_ Attach your business card or phone 0800 626 556 or fax 0171 404 6449  
\*Contract based on 10,000 miles per annum. Price correct at press date. Excess mileage charge: 35p per mile. Full written quotation available on request. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. All payments include VAT.

# Versace's mourners screened in manhunt

FROM TOM RHODES IN SOUTH BEACH, MIAMI

HUNDREDS of mourners were screened by undercover agents at a Miami Beach memorial for Gianni Versace yesterday as police said the "cocky" alleged killer may have returned to revel in the scene of his crime.

Convinced that Andrew Cunanan, 27, the gay gigolo and chief suspect in the Versace murder, might make another unexpected appearance at his memorial, officers walked up and down the aisles of St Patrick's Catholic Church throughout the ceremony. They inspected the faces of every male dignitary, businessman, model and fashion industry consultant and scanned the crowds listening to the ceremony by loudspeaker outside.

The service, held at the neo-Renaissance building once frequented by Al Capone, the Chicago gangster, was a final mark of respect from the South Beach community for the man who had helped to create an American Riviera and inspired a vibrant international hotspot in this once dilapidated Deco District of Miami.

Many mourners wore Versace black, his characteristic cloth, as a symbolic tribute. Outside the church, police officers handed out pictures of Cunanan as local authorities continued to investigate tips and leads, including possible links between the alleged serial killer and the most recent murder of a Cuban-born doctor in Miami Springs.

Police sniffer dogs had recognised the scent they picked up on clothes apparently left by the suspect near Versace's beachfront mansion as the same smell discovered on the passenger seat of a black BMW owned by Silvio Alfonso, the dead doctor.

In an apparent volte-face yesterday, officials denied earlier reports that they had ruled out any connection between the two murders and said the inquiry was still continuing. Alfonso, 44, described as a known homosexual, had been trussed with designer ties and strangled with a braided belt in the bedroom of his bungalow. He was lying face down with underwear and trousers around his ankles.

Federal and local authorities have widened their net to investigate the murders of other homosexual men along the East Coast since April and are also analysing another death on South Beach in May, days after Cunanan is said to have killed a previous victim in New Jersey. They remain convinced that Cunanan, a master of disguise, may be feeding his ego by remaining in South Florida to watch continuous media coverage of the nationwide manhunt.

John Coffey, of the Florida Law Enforcement Department, said his men were scanning television pictures of crowds near the bloody steps of the palazzo on Ocean Drive shortly after Versace was killed by two bullets in the back of the head.

"We don't know if he did return to the scene after the killing," said Mr Coffey, "but people that know the subject tell us that it would not be abnormal for him to do that. He is quite a cocky guy."

Miami police said Cunanan had made several mistakes since he allegedly shot Versace last Tuesday morning. They have now established that the shots that killed three of Cunanan's alleged victims were all fired by the same weapon, a .40 calibre pistol. Versace was killed by a similar weapon but investigators have not yet linked the bullets or shell casings from the specific handgun to his murder.

Letters, page 21



Santo Versace carries his brother's ashes, accompanied by their sister, Donatella, in Moltrasio yesterday

## Designers accused of sham as family grieves

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE ashes of designer Gianni Versace were returned to Italy yesterday and buried at a private ceremony on the shore of Lake Como where he had a villa.

But the ceremony was overshadowed by controversy in the fashion world over whether Versace's colleagues really mourned his death.

At a simple family service attended by a dozen mourners, the urn containing the designer's ashes was buried in the village of

Moltrasio. Earlier it arrived by air near the northern city of Bergamo, accompanied by Versace's sister, Donatella, and their brother, Santo, on a private jet from Miami.

"May the Lord help us to understand what has befallen you," Father Bartolomeo Franzini, the parish priest, told mourners gathered at a small chapel in the cemetery.

Four limousines were parked at the wrought-iron gates as Donatella, wearing a close-fitting black dress and sunglasses, led her children, Allegra and Daniel, past

security guards, two paramilitary carabinieri and a few bystanders. Celestino Villa, the Mayor, said that a special chapel would be built as a permanent resting place for Versace's ashes and that a Mass would be celebrated in his memory in Milan cathedral on Tuesday.

"The urn will remain here with us on Lake Como. These were his wishes," Signor Villa said. He denied reports that Versace had already built a chapel inside the villa to be used after his death.

In Milan, the office of the Archbishop said it was deciding

where to hold the Mass. Church sources said that the cathedral was the most likely location.

Shopkeepers in Moltrasio lowered their shutters yesterday. "This is due recognition for a great person who put the image of Italy in the window attracting the lights of world attention," said Luciano Tessaro, chairman of the Italian Association of Window Dressers.

However, a leading fashion writer started a furious controversy yesterday by accusing Versace's fellow designers of shedding crocodile tears for him. Adriana

Mulassano, in a letter to the Rome daily *La Repubblica*, accused Italy's fashion moguls of "intellectual poverty... a lack of culture and values", and said the designers had contrived "the most degrading spectacle that the world of fashion could give of itself". She said Italian designers had "jumped on the victory chariot so that each of them could take two minutes of glory". Mulassano added that the solidarity apparently shown in expressions of sadness by the top designers was false. "The stylists do not love each other," she said.

## Fifth Avenue finds solace in buying frenzy

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN department stores and fashion shops are playing host to a Versace "feeding frenzy".

Since the murder of the Italian couturier, buyers have converged on every conceivable outlet where his fashion designs might be on sale, queuing, jostling and lunging for any article of clothing that bears the distinctive Versace Medusa-head logo.

"Everyone, it seems, wants a piece of the dead man," said a salesgirl at Bloomingdale's, New York's finest department store. "It's like the rush for bits of the Berlin Wall, only that this is a time of celebration and this is really kind of spooky."

"We've never seen anything quite like this," said Frank Doroff, the store's vice-president. The demand for Versace's 150 jeans, 1,000 women's handbags, and even the Versace five-piece china set, was "five times over what it was a year ago".

Yesterday, long queues of people formed outside many shops on Fifth Avenue, many of whom were clearly not the Versace "type". Stocky housewives, office men on their way to work and tourists in Bermuda shorts mingled with aspiring models and lean, rangy Lotharios, all in search of something — anything — by the late designer. "His clothes

are flying off the hangers," said a shopper at Bergdorf Goodman, clutching a Versace man's suit as if afraid it would be yanked from her.

Dawn Mello, the store's president, said: "We are selling everything we have in Versace. The dinner wear is sold out. And people are calling in from all over the country, as far as California, wanting specific items from the last collection."

Before his death, Versace had worked on the Spring/Summer 1998 collection, which hits the market this autumn. After that, there will be no more new designs, so buyers are desperate to acquire the last vestiges of a rapidly dwindling supply.

Kelly Patrick, a spokeswoman for Neiman Marcus, said: "In our San Francisco store, women's leisure wear has almost sold out. And the volume has been even greater in Florida, for obvious reasons."

Valerie Steele, the chief curator for the museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, said: "It's a known fact that when an artist or painter dies, the value of their art goes up. Since Versace died at the height of his prowess, one could expect that the value of his one-of-a-kind couture will go up."

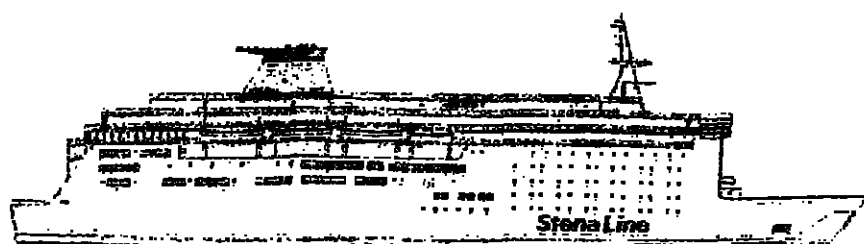
**THE LARGEST SUPERFERRY TO SOUTHERN IRELAND  
COME AND HELP US LAUNCH HER.**

With the launch of the Stena Beatrix, a crossing over the Irish Sea will never be the same again. This is a liner with a choice of four styles of bar, including one with live music; a choice of four lounges with sumptuous reclining seats; two cinemas; eight staterooms; and three restaurants, serving everything from Kansas Ranchburgers and Caesar salads to Japanese salmon in Teriyaki sauce. So come aboard; to celebrate the launch, we're offering single fares from as little as £134 (car including driver and up to 4 passengers) from Fishguard to Rosslare. To book, see your Travel Agent or call us direct on 8990 70 70 70.

Special launch offer: Fishguard to Rosslare:  
**£134\***  
Car including driver and up to 4 passengers single fare

\*Selected sailings only. Price valid for travel before 31st Aug 1997. For full terms and conditions please refer to the latest edition of the Fast Ferry and Ferry Guide 1997.

**Stena Line**  
The next generation of ferry company



هذه امينة الأصل

HOME IS AT RISK



# Gore looks short of big ideas for long campaign

AL GORE has begun his race for the White House. For the past two weeks, with President Clinton playing the statesman in foreign capitals, the Vice-President has held court to the cameras at home, congratulating NASA on the Mars landing and announcing tax cuts and new rules on air pollution.

This month, Mr Clinton has endorsed Mr Gore, earlier and more openly than any President has done for a would-be successor in 150 years. All the same, the Gore campaign is looking rattled. To win in November 2000, Mr Gore must defeat rivals for the Democratic nomination by the spring of that year, then beat the Republican candidate in the final high-stakes election. The first objective is now giving him trouble.

His main rival is likely to be Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic minority in the House of Representatives, although Paul Wellstone, a senator from Minnesota, is often cited as a dark horse.

Accused as much as Mr Gore of blandness, Mr Gephardt has fashioned himself as the champion of the outsider, the unions, liberals and protectionists who were ditched by Mr Clinton in his determination to make the Democrats electable. By contrast,



AMERICAN  
AGENDA  
BRONWEN  
MADDOX

Mr Gore has the weight of the presidency behind him. Mr Clinton has given him White House resources, and the Vice-President has begun tramping around the states that are critical in the primary elections for the party nomination. Mr Clinton told NBC News that Mr Gore "has been unquestionably the most effective Vice-President in history. And if the people decide to make him President, they won't be disappointed."

Mr Gore's worry is that he is now so associated with Mr Clinton's conservative philosophy that the liberal wing of the party and Mr Gephardt could give him a nasty shock. The best strategy to win the nomination is to promise something for every part of the party, as Mr Clinton so successfully did in 1992. But the best strategy for a Democratic President faced with a Republican Congress is to move to the centre, as Mr Clinton has in his second term. Mr Gore's association with that conservatism will be a help in fighting a Republican candidate — but could prove a fatal handicap in the primaries.

In the next few months, it is likely to become clearer that Mr Clinton's interests are at odds with Mr Gore's, and that his support is worth less than it seems. With an eye on the history books, the President wants to get as much legislation through Congress as possible. In his desire to get a renewal of "fast-track authority", which would give him the power to get trade agreements through Congress without amendment, he is likely to offend many of the groups Mr Gore is courting.

Those strategic problems compound Mr Gore's shortcomings. He remains uncharismatic. Mr Clinton handles big themes of hope, courage and the future of Europe with authority. Mr Gore sounds more confident with technical subjects, and on the environment — his favourite — gives an impression of wistful impotence.

According to aides, he tries to relax, but the body language remains rigid. On a platform recently, he was left looking awkward when a Polish woman due to give a speech about her past dissolved into tears. In China, he toasted Tiananmen Square generals with champagne for fear of causing offence by refusing the glass.

Mr Gore remains the favourite to win the Democratic nomination and, on many counts, to be the next President. But it is hardly a foregone conclusion.

Leading article, page 21

## Man who brought Internet to its knees

FROM IAN BRODIE  
IN WASHINGTON

THE CRASH of the Internet on Thursday was the fault of one man who is now "being dealt with very appropriately" it emerged yesterday.

Chaos reigned after a computer operator failed to heed automatic alarms going off at 2.30am on Thursday.

The glitch was traced to Network Solutions Inc, a firm in the Washington suburbs that keeps more than a million Internet addresses on an electronic master list. David Graves, the firm's Internet business manager, said: "What happened wasn't a technical problem. It was a human problem."

The executives refused to name the culprit but said they would make the "graveyard shift" a two-person job in future.

Every night Network Solutions shares its updated files with ten large Internet computers around the world, known as root servers. These are the Internet's traffic police, handling thousands of address requests each second and sending messages off in the right direction.

With the technician not reacting to alarms, corrupted files went out to the root servers, causing a cascade of bad addresses to spread throughout the global network. Internet users began receiving error messages that Web sites and e-mail addresses they used frequently no longer existed. Network Solutions sent out corrected files four hours after the glitch began, but it took many more hours for all the inaccuracies to be purged.

The crash was bad news for the firm, already under assault for having an exclusive agreement to register addresses for the US National Science Foundation, an early sponsor of the Internet. The contract expires next year.



Max returning to Johannesburg Zoo after hospital treatment for gunshot wounds

## Robber shot in gorilla warfare

FROM INIGO GILMORE  
IN JOHANNESBURG

A GORILLA named Max is recovering from gunshot wounds at Johannesburg Zoo after trying to grab an armed suspect who jumped into his enclosure while fleeing from police. The suspect was also shot.

The man, who had broken into a nearby home, scaled a moat at the zoo and jumped into Max's enclosure. The gorilla grappled with the man,

apparently in defence of his territory and his mate, Lisa. The robber fired twice at Max, one bullet lodging in his shoulder, the second passing through his neck.

The gorilla, who is 26 years old, also attacked two policemen who entered the enclosure, biting one on the buttocks and hitting the other. A third policeman was injured when he twisted his ankle trying to get out of the enclosure. In the fracas, police shot and injured the robber. Both

the robber and the gorilla were taken to Millpark Hospital in Johannesburg. Later, officials loaded the gorilla onto a truck serving as an animal ambulance and Max went back to the zoo, his huge paw engulfing the vet's hand as he was holding.

Max, who is from the former Zaire, was later described as cantankerous by zoo officials. They added that Lisa was "very distressed".

The robber and police were still being treated.

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Go-ahead for hotel in Golan

Jerusalem: In a gesture of solidarity with the 15,000 Jewish settlers on the Golan Heights, Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, has given the go-ahead for the building of a 220-room hotel (Christopher Walker writes).

The announcement, certain to infuriate Syria which is demanding a total Israeli withdrawal as a necessary condition of peace, came as the Prime Minister toured the strategic plateau as part of celebrations to mark the thirtieth anniversary of its capture.

### Ali kit for sale

New York: An extensive collection of boxing gloves, trunks, robes and letters which once belonged to Muhammad Ali will be up for auction in October. Christie's has announced here (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The sale, which will take place in Los Angeles, will include the letter Ali wrote in 1966 in the draft board, refusing to fight in Vietnam. The memorabilia is owned by a boxing fan from Long Island.

### Police powers

Hong Kong: Guidelines empowering police to ban protests here drew criticism from civil rights groups. The administration granted police wide discretionary powers to ban protests or political groups on "national security" grounds. This was defined as threatening China's security, promoting independence for Tibet or Taiwan, or causing public disturbance. (Reuter)

### Torture proved

Rome: An official inquiry has confirmed that Italian peace-keeping soldiers tortured Somalis in the country in 1993, the head of the investigation was reported as saying. "Certain episodes have been proved, even though at the beginning there were attempts to hide them," Ennio Gallo said. (AFP)

## ADVERTISEMENT

# Homeowners

If you want to afford a better lifestyle...

The Shared Appreciation Mortgage™ (SAM) is an exciting new concept from Bank of Scotland. There are two SAMs, both of which allow you to raise money quickly and easily, and with a low interest rate fixed for life, presently 0% or 5.95%.

### How does it work?

As the name suggests, all we ask from you when leaving the scheme is that you share with us a percentage of any future appreciation in value of your property, together with repayment of the loan.

The interest rate chosen determines the level of appreciation you will be required to pay when leaving the scheme. Any equity you currently have in the property remains yours, except in the event of any future decrease in the value of your home.

In any case where the property value falls below the initial value, there will be no Shared Appreciation to pay.

### 0% SAM

- Zero % interest fixed for life
- No details of income required
- No upper age limits for applicants
- Minimum Loan £15,001
- Minimum Property Valuation £60,000
- Maximum loan 25% of property valuation

### 5.95% SAM

- 5.95% fixed for life
- No details of income required
- No upper age limits for applicants
- Minimum Loan £15,001
- Minimum Property Valuation £60,000
- Maximum loan 75% of property valuation

### Who decides what the funds can be used for?

You do! Whether you want to raise money to improve your lifestyle by investing for the future, carrying out those long desired home improvements, repaying an existing mortgage, treating yourself to a holiday or purchasing that dream car, then the Shared Appreciation Mortgage™ may be the solution for you.

### Can I repay the mortgage at any time?

Yes! The choice of when to repay the mortgage is yours. You can exit at any time, or alternatively it can be repaid

on death, or death of the surviving partner, if a joint mortgage.

### To apply

It couldn't be easier. Simply call us, or contact your local branch for an application form and brochure. Alternatively, if it is more convenient, cut out the coupon and send it to us. We will then arrange to send you the brochures.



**BANK OF SCOTLAND**  
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES®

Call us  
today 10am - 2pm, Sunday 10am - 4pm  
or Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm  
on 0131 317 6827

Please send me more information on the Shared Appreciation Mortgage™ Post to: Bank of Scotland, Residential Mortgages, (SAM) Team, FREEPOST, 41 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 0PD.

☐ 0% Scheme ☐ 5.95% Scheme ☐ Both Schemes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SATIME 1

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

We are obliged under the provision of the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 1989 to include this statement because you are required to create a mortgage over your home as security for the loan. Typical mortgage example: The following example is based on a house value of £130,000, a loan of £71,500 with Shared Appreciation of 55%. Although the loan can be for life this example is based on the whole of the loan and Shared Appreciation being repaid after 20 years. The chargeable rate of interest is 5.95%. Total amount payable will be £259,462 calculated to include 240 monthly payments of £1394.52. Shared Appreciation (£100,938), arrangement fee (£500), legal fees (£600), valuation fees on entrance and exit totalling (£540) and an administration fee (£300). The example assumes house price inflation of 4.5% per annum. All amounts are calculated without the benefit of MIRAS.

APR 9.0%. APR based on representative information set out above. House price inflation, valuation and legal fees may vary. To apply for a mortgage you must be aged 18 or over. Written consumer credit quotations are available on request from BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgages) No. 3 PLC, No. 4 PLC, and Scotland (No. 2) Ltd, 41 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 0PD. All lending is subject to approval by Bank of Scotland as agent for BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgages) No. 3 PLC, No. 4 PLC, and Scotland (No. 2) Ltd, require security over the property. An acceptable life assurance policy is also required. Valuations are also required on substantial damage or compulsory purchase of property or if you make improvements exceeding more than £10,000. All valuations at your cost. Valuation fees vary depending on property valuation. Limited funds available. Currently not available in Northern Ireland. BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgages) No. 3 PLC, BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgages) No. 4 PLC, and BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgages) (Scotland) No. 2 Ltd are owned subsidiaries of Bank of Scotland. The name Bank of Scotland and its registered trademarks, and (Shared Appreciation Mortgages) and its trademarks of The Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland.

**YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.**

## 'Dream girl' nurtures vision of revolution

WHEN Giovanna Melandri talks about the "information revolution" in Italy, she is not just talking about the Internet and digital television. "It's a question of changing Italy itself," she says. "We are way, way behind. The communications revolution links in to all the other things we are trying to do — decentralising the appalling Italian bureaucracy, devolving more powers to the regions, empowering the citizen. We are changing the landscape."

Such sweeping declarations are startling from a woman of only 35 who does not yet hold ministerial office. But as spokeswoman on communications for the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) — the core of Italy's centre-left Government — she is becoming one of the most photographed and talked about women in Italy. To her embarrassment, a recent survey put her near

ROME FILE  
by RICHARD OWEN



the top of the average Italian male's list of "dream girls".

Signora Melandri bristles at any suggestion that her high profile has to do with her trim good looks or air of cosmopolitan chic. "I am not a model. I am a representative of the people. There's a whole new generation of Italians who have a global, rather than provincial, outlook."

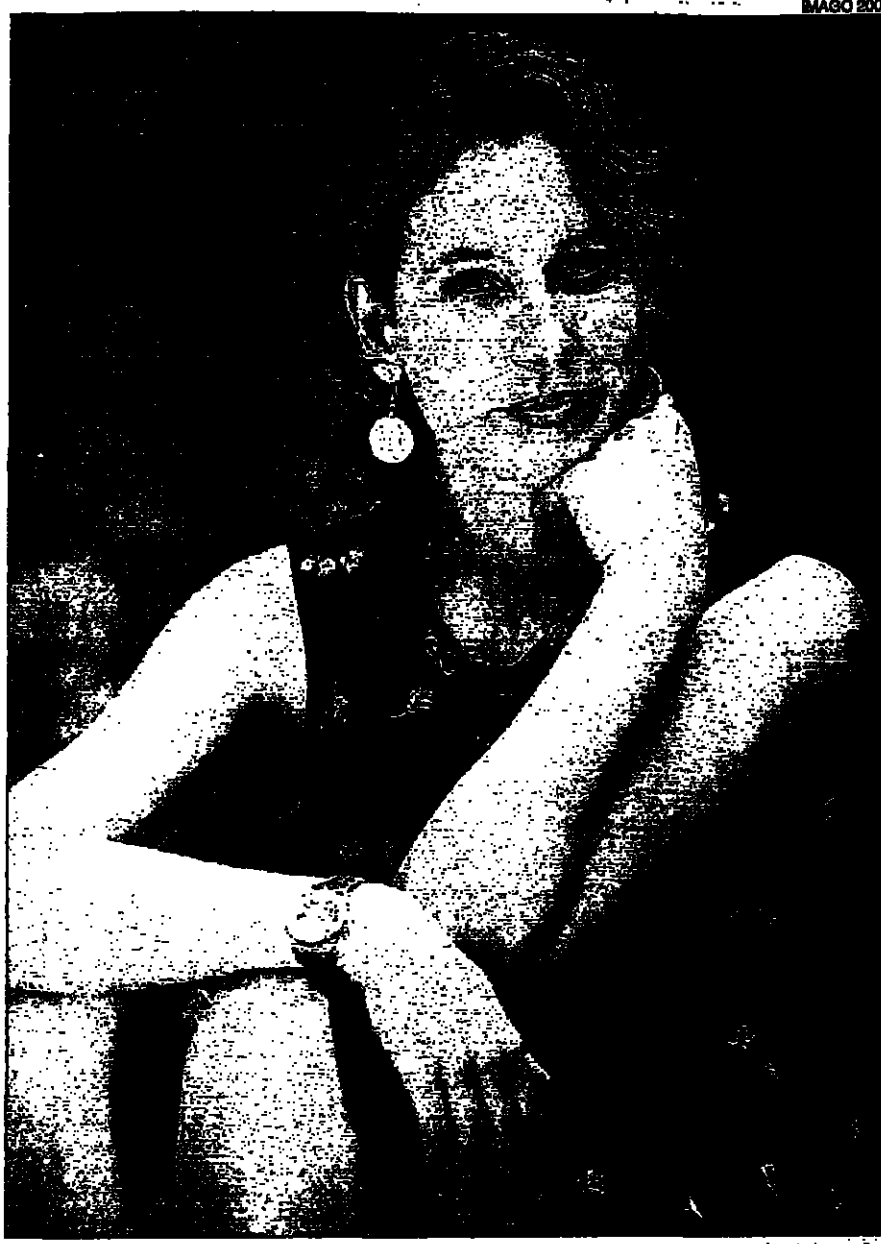
She clearly comes from a different planet than the old-style Communist Party, from which the PDS evolved in 1991. She was born in New York, where her father was the correspondent for RAI (Italian state-run television) dur-

ing the Kennedy era. She speaks fluent English, lives with a wealthy and successful lawyer, and moves in a circle of writers, actors, tycoons, fashion designers and glitterati — "as much socialite as socialist" as one of her friends puts it. She buzzes around town on a motorscooter, and spends weekends at a villa on the fashionable Tuscan coast.

Yet she managed to charm the tough working class residents of Magliana, an area of rundown tower blocks which is the heart of her Rome constituency. They made her their MP in 1994, at a time when the political tide was running to the Right. She was re-elected in April last year.

"I had a much harder time campaigning in the better-off areas," she says. "I'm not a champagne socialist. I don't even drink champagne. What does worry me is that a new class division is developing, between those who own and use new media technology and those who do not. The informed and the uninformed, as well as the rich and the poor."

"I see three areas the Left has to tackle now that it is in power in Italy, Britain and France," she says. "Reforming the welfare state, privatising state-run industries and promoting the concept of citizenship — of belonging. But her main aim is to 'secure a place for Italy in the global communications market' through privatising the cumbersome Italian telecommunications system and deregulating television."



Giovanna Melandri says Italy is way behind in the use of information technology

## Guides are deaf to the rewriting of history

GUIDES on the Palatine Hill above the Forum are still pointing out the remains of an Iron Age hut as the "dwelling" of Romulus, Rome's legendary founder, despite a new theory that the city has its origins not on any of its seven hills but down by the Tiber.

Professor Mario Attilio Levi, a noted archaeologist now in his nineties, says his conclusion after a lifetime studying the origins of Rome is that its founders had first gathered near Tiber Island, on a broad bend of the river below Capitol Hill.

In ancient times the small island lay opposite Rome's main river port, where salt (essential for food preservation) was brought up from the coastal port at Ostia.

Professor Levi suggests that Tiber salt merchants, rather than shepherds on the hills, formed the first Roman community. He believes they may have traded with the Sabines (with whom they inter-married, hence the legend of the Rape) and the Etruscans.

Guides on the Palatine will have none of it: Romulus founded Rome in the eighth century BC after killing his brother Remus, they say, and that is that.

Nevertheless, the few modern residents of Tiber Island are delighted. The island houses the hospital and church of San Bartolomeo, built on the site of the Temple of Aesculapius, and a restaurant, Sora Lella, named after a popular Italian actress, which is doing even better business than usual.

## Zoo trails in restoration league

THE restoration of the Villa Borghese gardens continues apace as part of Rome's millennial preparations. The 17th century Villa Borghese itself, with restored masterpieces by Canova, Titian and Caravaggio, has been under siege by visitors since it reopened earlier this month after a 13-year closure. Other great Renaissance buildings in the park, such as the Villa Giulia, have also been restored.

But the park also houses one of Rome's eyesores — the cramped and

old-fashioned Municipal Zoo, which has woefully inadequate facilities for its 1,100 caged animals. The zoo's lack of resources was highlighted recently when vandals climbed over the fence at night and started attacking a family of four tigers with iron bars and a billiard cue. One tiger, Alfiero, was killed, and another, Filippo, was badly injured. Claudio Manicassi, the zoo manager, said the zoo only had three guards at night, and their patrol car had broken down.

## 'Little Fish' murdered prince to wriggle free from the palace hook



Prince Thitipand and Mom Chalasai, the child bride who admitted killing him

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

THE last chapter in a fairytale romance between a Thai prince, known as the "Frog", and the young "Little Fish" he adopted to become his child bride, ended at Bangkok police headquarters yesterday as the girl who was reared for the prince's bed confessed to his murder.

The princess, Chalasai Yugala, 25, sobbed as she admitted lacing her prince's coffee with a flea killer in an attempt to keep her lover, a chestnut seller she had met outside the palace walls.

Prince Thitipand Yugala, 60, a wealthy socialite and cousin of King Bhumipol Adulyadej, died in agony after ten days in August 1995.

A post-mortem examination showed that he had died of poisoning. Police were unable to pin the murder on her and she went on to become a chat-show celebrity, talking about her rags-to-riches life.

This week, however, after being ditched by her lover, she broke down in remorse and confessed. Yesterday she was paraded in front of Snob Thienkham, the Interior Minister, who recounted her confession. Mom Chalasai told police: "I did it to escape from the palace. There was nobody else involved."

After the murder the chestnut seller who peddled his mobile stall around the palace was arrested in connection with the murder, but was released.

"Little Fish" (Luak Pla in

Thai) was a four-year-old orphan abandoned at birth. She was adopted under royal patronage to give her a chance in life. She was educated at the royal palace and it was there, at the age of 11, that she caught the eye of Prince Yugala. By the age of 14 she is said to have become the prince's mistress and she went to live at his palace and look after his children from a former wife. The affair was torrid. The prince showered her with expensive gifts including a Ferrari, a private plane and he taught her everything, including the art of lovemaking.

But "Little Fish" was a free spirit. While the prince regarded her as one of his private possessions, she often sought the company of people

her own age, slipping out of the palace at night to frequent smart discos and trendy nightspots.

In 1995 the couple married and at the wedding, "Frog" embraced his wife with a kiss. On top the wedding cake were models of a frog and fish kissing. The words on their wedding invitation read: "Age is in the mind. But love will always be in the heart."

The prince was quoted as saying: "My wife does not need to be beautiful. Nor does she need to be a good cook. But she has to be great in bed. Luak Pla is my No 1 in this regard." Unfortunately for the heartbroken prince his young wife, who indeed was no beauty, was also the No 1 for other people. Just before the wedding she had run off with

a Swedish tourist to the Thai resort of Pattaya and the humiliated but smitten prince advertised in newspapers offering money for her return.

He got her back, but her wandering continued. She used to hang out with young crocodiles in Bangkok shopping malls and had a passionate affair with the chestnut seller, Uthet Chuapwa, with whom she hoped to elope.

The young bride may have had strong personal reasons for wanting to "leave the prince. His punishments for her misdemeanours were severe. Prince Yugala boasted to friends that after she ran off with the Swedish tourist, "I bound and strapped her up and hung her from a hook in my bedroom for three days for humiliating me."

lachia

it's where there's an

extra  
10% off

all sale prices

from thursday 17th july.

it's the habitat sale.

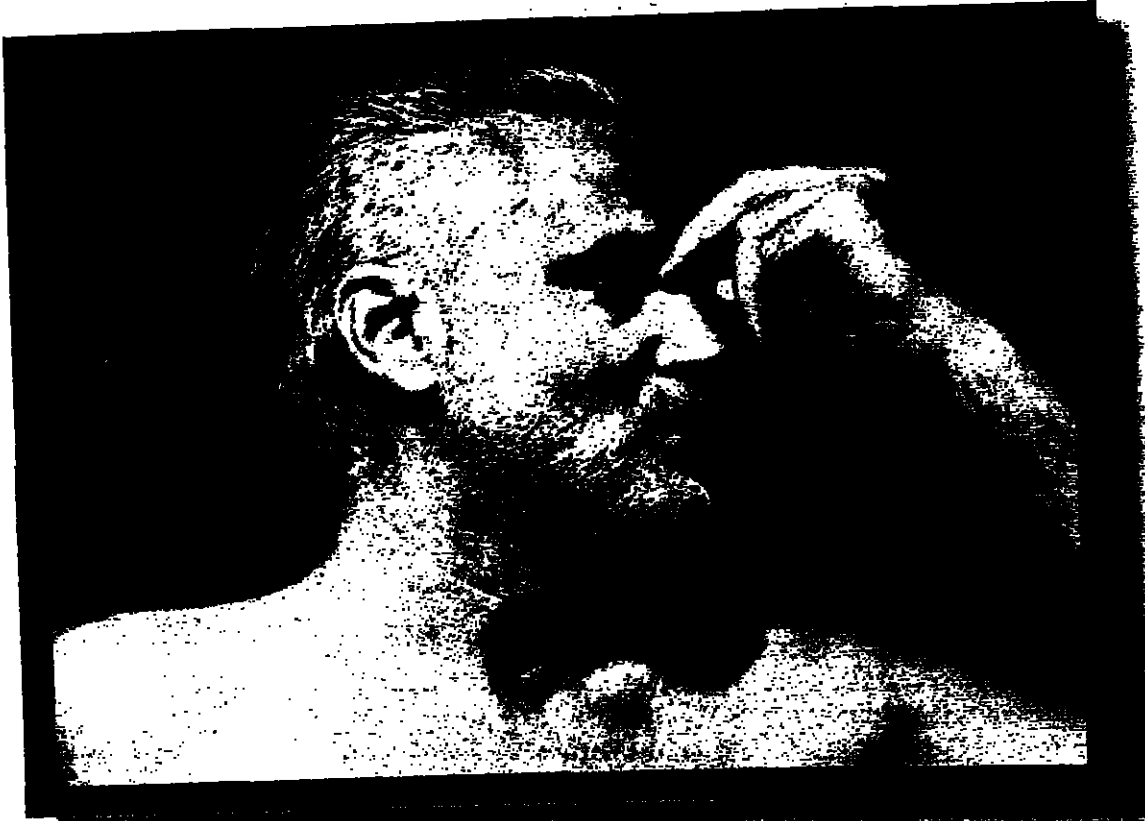
and it ends on

sunday 20th july.

habitat

Call 0645 33 44 33 for details of your nearest store.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



MIDAS TOUCH

Gianni Versace: the man who made a fortune from bad taste  
In Style tomorrow



IN THE HEAT  
OF THE NIGHT  
Mr Kakimoto's \$37m dream



PLAYING DIRTY  
The babe to  
sell us Bach



THE OPEN  
Unrivalled coverage  
and in-depth analysis

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

ملتا منة الاصل



the palace hood

2  
TIMES

# DUCH

SPORT

THE OPEN

Unbeatable odds on and outside a great

SUNDAY PAPER

## RICHARD MORRISON

to believe that Classic FM has pinched far more of its typical listeners' disgruntledly described by Alan Jones as "Saga louts" — from Radio 2 and 4. At the end of last year, when Radio 3 was right to modernise when Classic FM came along. There's no point in simply handing listeners to the commercial opposition. But it can't venture no further down Populist Road or Bland Alley without losing its raison d'être. And the need for a sane, cultured horizon-widening antidote to the ephemeral jabber of our cluttered airwaves has never been greater.

Providing that quality is what made Radio 3 'the envy of the world' in the first place. If the BBC governors don't see the reason to uphold Radio 3's core values now — when the BBC is behaving more crassly than the tackiest commercial broadcaster in so many areas — they shouldn't be BBC governors. Those who fear that the ethos of public-service broadcasting is fast disappearing down the plug hole of the commercial close eye of Radio 3 in the coming months.

There is a spin doctor in the house: the sinister George McAllister and Sam Halpenny in Simon Blake's insubstantial reworking of *The Prince*

maninov, and Osborne judged all its sonorities and textures superlatively well, as he did in two of the Op 23 Preludes.

Osborne, fresh from winning joint first prize in the Naumburg International Competition in New York, put together a programme full of fascinating connections. He gave an affectionate, fluid account of Ravel's *Le tombeau de Couperin*, whose dance movements – balanced very neatly the Bach French Suite in C (BWV 816) he had played earlier with such vitality. And the Ravel was alluded to in the title of Jonathan Harvey's 1994 *Tombeau de Messiaen*, an arresting dialogue for piano and tape.

**JOHN ALLISON**

### OPERA & BALLET

**COLISEUM** 0171 632 8330.  
**UNITED & AUGUST** 0171 632 8330.  
 2.00 & 3.50 B&S 2.00 & 3.50

**THE KIBOY BALLET**  
 and 12 other titles from  
 the SLEEPING BEAUTY  
 Mon, Tue, Wed & Thu  
 SWAN LAKE  
 Fri & Sat 7.30 (sold)  
**DAVID GARROTE**

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE** 0171 304 4000 for Box Office & Standby info  
 Tickets available on the day  
**THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**  
**THE ROYAL OPERA**  
 NEW SEASON 1987-88  
 For theatres, details, & prog info  
 please call 0171 212 9123

---

### THEATRES

**ADDELPHI** 0171 413 1777 (P&S)  
 Gps 0200 61403, 0171 593 3030  
**"ABSOLUTE PURSUIT"** Daily Mat

**JERRY LEWIS**  
**DAMN YANKERS**  
**"A GREAT GLAMOROUS, GUTTERBALL OF A SHOW, A GIFT FROM BROADWAY"**  
 Sunday Times  
 Final prog. Starts 7.30  
**Open Returns to London in SEPT!**

To advertise in  
**ENTERTAINMENTS**  
 Tel: 0171 680 6222  
 or fax: 0171 481 9313

**ALDWYCH** 0171 416 8009  
 0171 420 000 (Gibson's big box)  
 Preview from July 30  
 Opens Aug 5 at 7.30  
**ALAN TAYLOR**

**LIFE SUPPORT**  
 A new play by SIMON GRAY  
 Directed by HAROLD PRINTER  
 Gps Mon-Sat 8, Mat Wed & Sat 8

**APOLLO LABOURS** 0171 416 8009  
 0171 416 8009 (no big box yet)  
 4444 420 000 Gps 416 8009  
 telephone 0200 614 000

**SUMMER HOLIDAY**  
 "The Ultimate Fun Show"  
 Cliff Richard, The Sun  
 Singing, LAUREN DAY  
 Limited Summer Season  
 Mon-Sat 7.30 Wed & Sat 12.30  
 Wed 7.30, Thurs & O.P.P's 2.00

**CHICAGO**  
 "THE DROP DEAD BROADWAY HIT"  
 UTE LEHMEN  
 Press from 27 Oct Opens 18 Nov

**"THERE'S NOTHING TO TOUCH DAMN YANKERS"**  
**JERRY LEWIS IS HAVING A BALL & SO WILL YOU!**  
 David Garrote  
 the Independent

See  
**ADDELPHI**  
**THEATRE**

**ALDWYCH** 0171 416 8009/1 big box 0171 420 000 4444 (big box)  
 Gps 0171 416 8009  
 Tues 7.30, Wed & Sat 8  
**"THE BEST ORIGINAL PLAY IN THE WORLD"**  
 TONY Head Titbits

**MICHAEL MCCOWEN**  
**"TOWERING PRECIOUS"**  
 Evening Standard

**TOM & CLEM**  
 a new play by STEPHEN CHURCHETT  
 Directed by RICHARD WILSON  
**LAST 2 WEEKS**  
 Must book July 26

To advertise in  
**ENTERTAINMENTS**  
 Tel: 0171 680 6222  
 or fax: 0171 481 9313

**ALDWYCH** 0171 416 8009  
 0171 420 000 (Gibson's big box)  
 Preview from July 30  
 Opens Aug 5 at 7.30  
**ALAN TAYLOR**

**LIFE SUPPORT**  
 A new play by SIMON GRAY  
 Directed by HAROLD PRINTER  
 Gps Mon-Sat 8, Mat Wed & Sat 8

**APOLLO LABOURS** 0171 416 8009  
 0171 416 8009 (no big box yet)  
 4444 420 000 Gps 416 8009  
 telephone 0200 614 000

**SUMMER HOLIDAY**  
 "The Ultimate Fun Show"  
 Cliff Richard, The Sun  
 Singing, LAUREN DAY  
 Limited Summer Season  
 Mon-Sat 7.30 Wed & Sat 12.30  
 Wed 7.30, Thurs & O.P.P's 2.00

**CHICAGO**  
 "THE DROP DEAD BROADWAY HIT"  
 UTE LEHMEN  
 Press from 27 Oct Opens 18 Nov

**"THERE'S NOTHING TO TOUCH DAMN YANKERS"**  
**JERRY LEWIS IS HAVING A BALL & SO WILL YOU!**  
 David Garrote  
 the Independent

See  
**ADDELPHI**  
**THEATRE**

**APOLLO 24hr** 0171 416 8009/1 big box 0171 420 000 4444 (big box)  
 Gps 0171 416 8009  
 Tues 7.30, Wed & Sat 8  
**"THE BEST ORIGINAL PLAY IN THE WORLD"**  
 TONY Head Titbits

**MICHAEL MCCOWEN**  
**"TOWERING PRECIOUS"**  
 Evening Standard

**TOM & CLEM**  
 a new play by STEPHEN CHURCHETT  
 Directed by RICHARD WILSON  
**LAST 2 WEEKS**  
 Must book July 26

To advertise in  
**ENTERTAINMENTS**  
 Tel: 0171 680 6222  
 or fax: 0171 481 9313

**ALDWYCH** 0171 416 8009  
 0171 420 000 (Gibson's big box)  
 Preview from July 30  
 Opens Aug 5 at 7.30  
**ALAN TAYLOR**

**LIFE SUPPORT**  
 A new play by SIMON GRAY  
 Directed by HAROLD PRINTER  
 Gps Mon-Sat 8, Mat Wed & Sat 8

**APOLLO LABOURS** 0171 416 8009  
 0171 416 8009 (no big box yet)  
 4444 420 000 Gps 416 8009  
 telephone 0200 614 000

**SUMMER HOLIDAY**  
 "The Ultimate Fun Show"  
 Cliff Richard, The Sun  
 Singing, LAUREN DAY  
 Limited Summer Season  
 Mon-Sat 7.30 Wed & Sat 12.30  
 Wed 7.30, Thurs & O.P.P's 2.00

**CHICAGO**  
 "THE DROP DEAD BROADWAY HIT"  
 UTE LEHMEN  
 Press from 27 Oct Opens 18 Nov

**"THERE'S NOTHING TO TOUCH DAMN YANKERS"**  
**JERRY LEWIS IS HAVING A BALL & SO WILL YOU!**  
 David Garrote  
 the Independent

See  
**ADDELPHI**  
**THEATRE**

**APOLLO 24hr** 0171 416 8009/1 big box 0171 420 000 4444 (big box)  
 Gps 0171 416 8009  
 Tues 7.30, Wed & Sat 8  
**"THE BEST ORIGINAL PLAY IN THE WORLD"**  
 TONY Head Titbits

**MICHAEL MCCOWEN**  
**"TOWERING PRECIOUS"**  
 Evening Standard

**TOM & CLEM**  
 a new play by STEPHEN CHURCHETT  
 Directed by RICHARD WILSON  
**LAST 2 WEEKS**  
 Must book July 26

To advertise in  
**ENTERTAINMENTS**  
 Tel: 0171 680 6222  
 or fax: 0171 481 9313

**ALDWYCH** 0171 416 8009  
 0171 420 000 (Gibson's big box)  
 Preview from July 30  
 Opens Aug 5 at 7.30  
**ALAN TAYLOR**

**LIFE SUPPORT**  
 A new play by SIMON GRAY  
 Directed by HAROLD PRINTER  
 Gps Mon-Sat 8, Mat Wed & Sat 8

**APOLLO LABOURS** 0171 416 8009  
 0171 416 8009 (no big box yet)  
 4444 420 000 Gps 416 8009  
 telephone 0200 614 000

**SUMMER HOLIDAY**  
 "The Ultimate Fun Show"  
 Cliff Richard, The Sun  
 Singing, LAUREN DAY  
 Limited Summer Season  
 Mon-Sat 7.30 Wed & Sat 12.30  
 Wed 7.30, Thurs & O.P.P's 2.00

**CHICAGO**  
 "THE DROP DEAD BROADWAY HIT"  
 UTE LEHMEN  
 Press from 27 Oct Opens 18 Nov

**"THERE'S NOTHING TO TOUCH DAMN YANKERS"**  
**JERRY LEWIS IS HAVING A BALL & SO WILL YOU!**  
 David Garrote  
 the Independent

See  
**ADDELPHI**  
**THEATRE**

**APOLLO 24hr** 0171 416 8009/1 big box 0171 420 000 4444 (big box)  
 Gps 0171 416 8009  
 Tues 7.30, Wed & Sat 8  
**"THE BEST ORIGINAL PLAY IN THE WORLD"**  
 TONY Head Titbits

**MICHAEL MCCOWEN**  
**"TOWERING PRECIOUS"**  
 Evening Standard

**TOM & CLEM**  
 a new play by STEPHEN CHURCHETT  
 Directed by RICHARD WILSON  
**LAST 2 WEEKS**  
 Must book July 26

To advertise in  
**ENTERTAINMENTS**  
 Tel: 0171 680 6222  
 or fax: 0171 481 9313

**ALDWYCH** 0171 416 8009  
 0171 420 000 (Gibson's big box)  
 Preview from July 30  
 Opens Aug 5 at 7.30  
**ALAN TAYLOR**

**LIFE SUPPORT**  
 A new play by SIMON GRAY  
 Directed by HAROLD PRINTER  
 Gps Mon-Sat 8, Mat Wed & Sat 8

**APOLLO LABOURS** 0171 416 8009  
 0171 416 8009 (no big box yet)  
 4444 420 000 Gps 416 8009  
 telephone 0200 614 000

**SUMMER HOLIDAY**  
 "The Ultimate Fun Show"  
 Cliff Richard, The Sun  
 Singing, LAUREN DAY  
 Limited Summer Season  
 Mon



# We will like to be inside the Bankside

Nicholas Serota offers a private view of the Tate's two new London galleries

As the Tate celebrates its centenary on Monday, we look forward to the most spectacular development since its foundation: the opening of two new Tate galleries in London. The Tate Gallery of Modern Art, which will house the international collection (from 1900 to the present day), is due to open in the transformed Bankside Power Station in 2000. The following year sees the launch of the Tate Gallery of British Art, housing works by British artists from 1500 to a substantially redeveloped Millbank building.

Dividing the collections between "modern" and "British" is very much in keeping with the Tate's history. The vision of its founder, Henry Tate, was to create a National Gallery of British Art (its official name when it opened at Millbank in 1897); but 20 years later, in 1917, the gallery was given the added task of forming the country's international collection of modern art. There was a dynamic interplay between British and foreign art.

Some people have asked whether this special Tate "feel" will be diluted when the collections are divided. I hope that it will be further strengthened. The relationship between the two new galleries in London will be vigorous, with, for example, modern British works being exchangeable between them.

Furthermore, there will be more space to show key works in two changing panoramas of British and 20th-century art.

Millbank's new role is of great significance. It will allow us to nurture and further stimulate appreciation of both historic and contemporary British artists. In 1990, for instance, we brought together a large body of work by Stanley Spencer. This display had such an impact that when it was dispersed after a year, visitors complained: previously, few had remarked on the absence of Stanley Spencer. That same display resulted in requests from museums abroad to borrow Spencer paintings, and a major exhibition of his work is to open in Washington next year. The Tate Gallery of British Art will offer a superb opportunity to set the record straight on our national achievement in the visual arts.

London is the only major capital city not yet to have our own national gallery of modern art. In Paris and New York, such museums are signs of a serious, national appreciation of 20th-century culture and are key tourist attractions. The opening of the Tate at Bankside will put us on a level with other cities.

I would like to argue that a visit to the Tate Gallery of British Art will be a rich, inspiring and welcoming experience. That sense of being in the presence both of history and of living art will be given a new vitality by new conjunctions of artists working in Britain — artists as diverse as Holbein and Hockney, Hogarth, and Gilbert and George. Occasionally we shall also give a sense of the visual traditions in Britain before the Renaissance, especially where such achievements have been important for later artists. The Tate will pose such provocative questions as: how do we define "Britishness" in art and culture?

The galleries will also be used in different ways. Entering the Duveen Sculpture Galleries at Millbank may give a serene feeling of light and airiness; however, there will also be unexpectedly crowded, less brightly lit rooms where, for example, groups of drawings and watercolours will be closely hung. Our aim is to recog-

nise the importance of watercolour and drawing to the British tradition. Moreover we wish to show sculpture from all periods.

Imagine a whole room of Gainsborough or Stubbs, and how much heightened our appreciation of those artists will be when many of their works are visible together. There are also less prominent artists who should become better known: Thomas Jones and Allan Ramsay from the 18th century, or Wyndham Lewis and Edward Burra from the 20th. At the same time, the gallery will meet the demands of regular audiences to see, again and again, such loved artists as Constable and Blake, both in the collections and as the subjects of special exhibitions.

Exhibitions at Millbank will be devoted to individual British artists from the 16th century onwards, or perhaps to a single aspect of an artist's work. Foreign artists who have had an impact on, or been affected by, British art could also be the subject of shows at the Tate Gallery of British Art, as might foreign artists who have lived in Britain. Britishness will be explored in all its facets.

Regional British schools, both historic and contemporary, will be featured occasionally, and there will be a place, too, for looking at movements from abroad which have influenced or been influenced by British artists. There will also be themed exhibitions, drawing together the work of different British artists and, sometimes, their relevant foreign counterparts.

Meanwhile, to enter the Turbine Hall of the cathedral-like Bankside Power Station, a great industrial building in the heart of London, in its new role as the Tate Gallery of Modern Art, will be an amazing experience. The scale of the building, plus the imaginative transformation of it by the Swiss architects Herzog and de Meuron, will bring in visitors who may never before have been to the Tate. They will not be disappointed.

The Bankside galleries, however, will be contemplative, quiet spaces. Visitors will be able to engage intimately with individual works. It is hoped that there will be something to delight, stimulate and occasionally irritate everyone.

Bankside displays will anchor international art in an essentially British environment. Visitors will expect our interpretation of the 20th century to be distinct from other European museums. Thus, British 20th-century artists will be prominent in this international context as well as at Millbank. Special exhibitions will be devoted to all aspects of international 20th-century and later art. International art movements will be highlighted, as will individuals and groups of artists (including British artists), while exhibitions will explore the relationship between painting, sculpture, photography, film and architecture.

We expect that more than two million people a year will visit each gallery and that, encouraged by improved transport links between the two locations — including special buses and, we hope, riverboats — they will want to see both museums, as well as our sister galleries: the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery on Trafalgar Square. Such physical and intellectual connections will be important since, together, the two Tate galleries in London promise one of the most dynamic museum experiences in the world.

The author is Director of the Tate Gallery. Mr Tate's Gallery will be shown on BBC2 on Monday at 7.40pm.

The test of devolution is inward investment, not a Celtic vision of Europe, says Ted Rowlands

## Wales cannot afford an assembly of zealots

As one of the minority of 25 per cent who voted for Welsh devolution in 1979, I am not surprised that the old arguments have reopened so quickly. They reveal the tension not only within the Welsh Labour Party but among the Welsh public. Even the most favourable opinion polls reveal a high percentage of don't knows. Only when the don't knows are "squeezed", to use the pollsters' phrase, does one arrive at a yes support of 43 per cent. The number of those bitterly opposed has fallen significantly, but ambivalence and scepticism remain. Why?

Much to the chagrin of the zealots involved in the yes campaign, a large proportion of the Welsh public does not buy the grandiose claims made for a Welsh Assembly. It does not identify with the concept of Welsh nationhood, nor with the notion of a Wales repositioned as a small nation or region in Europe.

Indeed, I suspect the majority do not define their Welshness in institutional terms at all. In the absence of any meaningful institutions since the Act of Union in 1536, we define our Welshness in linguistic and cultural terms. It has been shaped by historic economic experience. That certainly is the case of the valley communities. They fear devolution as a nationalist's agenda.

We do not share a Wales in Europe vision based on some

romantic view of a special affinity between the Welsh and other Celtic and regional cultures. I find no evidence that we feel a greater affinity to the Basques, the Bretons or the Bavarians, than to the people of Birmingham. The yes zealots, in fact, despite the enduring relationship of Wales in Britain.

However, to bolster the new view of Wales in Europe, exaggerated claims are made for a Welsh Assembly. It will become the new economic powerhouse and give us an especially powerful voice in the corridors of the Brussels Commission. Further, unless we have one, the Scots and even the English regions will steal a march over us, corner the inward investment and a disproportionate amount of European Union funds. Without an assembly, Wales will be ignored.

To give weight to these arguments, the economic success of some of Europe's regions has been because of their elected regional assemblies. But there is no conclusive research proving a causal connection between elected assemblies and economic growth. Some

regions with assemblies have grown, some have not. The case for democracy, frankly, has never been an economic one. Democracies are capable of making terrible economic mistakes. Autocracies are sometimes economically successful.

In the communities I represent, few believe that a Welsh Assembly will transform our economic life, or believe that, had there been one, our pits would not have closed. However, an assembly, we are told, will at least give us a greater voice in Europe. The Irish experience is much quoted. These claims are given some credence, deliberately so by the European Commission, which fosters the notion of a Europe of the regions to bypass the Council of Ministers.

But power resides with the Council of Ministers. We all might admire the skills of an Irish Government whose ministers on the Council have extracted a high price for their support. That is not the role that either a Welsh Assembly or Scottish Parliament will be able to play. They won't have a veto. They will be left to scratch

around for a fitting proportion of what is likely to be a diminishing regional fund competing with the needs of the new central European member states. What hope will there be of an enhanced regional budget when national governments will be painfully cutting their own expenditure to meet the monetary union targets?

The future of Wales cannot be dependent on some illusory hope of pulling harder at the purse strings of a smaller European purse. Where Wales in Europe does matter is in terms of inward investment, due to its access to the European common market. In this respect, without an assembly, we have been remarkably successful, enjoying twice our share of inward investments.

This Welsh success story has been achieved by the pragmatic and skilful combination of the powers and influence of the Secretary of State alongside the Welsh Development Agency in partnership with local authorities. So is there a case for Welsh devolution?

Yes — but it is fundamentally a pragmatic democratic one. The Welsh Office has accrued greater powers and a budget of more than £6 billion. A host of quangos has grown to deliver services on an all-Wales basis.

One of the fundamental tasks of representative bodies is to allocate, order priorities and scrutinise public expenditure. Westminster no longer does it properly. A large democratic deficit has grown. An assembly would remove that.

To do so does not require the power of taxation. Taxation powers of the kind proposed for Scotland constitute tokenism of the worst kind. They are meaningless when one realises that 88 per cent of all Welsh local government is financed from British taxation and borrowing. Taxation receipts raised in Wales fall short of expenditure by more than £5 billion — by the Maastricht criteria a borrowing requirement of 15 per cent of GDP.

An elected assembly fulfilling a traditional role of allocating and scrutinising, bridging the democratic deficit, replacing the unrepresentative quangos, run along lean and puritanical lines could appeal to the Welsh electorate. We, however, don't need an assembly to redefine our Welshness. We know we are Welsh — and shall remain so — with or without one.

The author is MP for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney (Labour).

## A very private consort

The Prince should marry his mistress. But the birthday party is a mistake

I am all for press freedom," says a character by Tom Stoppard. "It's the journalist I can't stand."

I am sometimes asked how a specific public figure should deal with the press. The question is easy and the answer universal. Don't. The question is invariably repeated. The press is so unfair, so inaccurate, so persistent. Surely a "good" journalist wants to tell the truth? Perhaps, I reply, but his version, not yours. Yet he only wants an interview and seems so nice. We need publicity for a charity, a book, a constituency, a marriage. Can it really be bad? Worse than bad, I say. Good publicity is in Heaven. The press wants bad publicity. Do not touch the press. This advice is strangely unwelcome. Publicity is now the narcotic of public life. All my career I have watched politicians and others drink it, inhale it, inject it, gorge on it. The more they get, the more they crave. It undermines

their mental health, bloats their egos and wrecks the lives of their loved ones. Yet every interview promises a better trip, every photo opportunity will yield a Nuremberg rally. Disaster follows disaster. Misery is piled on misery. Yet still the addict craves the drug.

Thus my heart sank recently when I was asked what Camilla Parker Bowles might do to "set the record straight" on her public image. My informant told me that she was most upset by her treatment at the hands of the media. What could she do? Perhaps a discreet interview, a meeting with an editor, a staged photograph?

I was aghast. Mrs Parker Bowles had for some time been patron saint of Church of the Justly Private. She had obeyed its sacred rites. To the best of my knowledge, she had never sought an inch of publicity. She refused so much as a smile at an alien camera. There were no interviews, no photo-calls, no "authorised friends". I had seen no "Day in the Life of... No 'My Interiors', no preening self-regard disguised as a charity plea. There was just a name, a rumoured relationship and a fuzzy photograph from a distance. Mrs Parker Bowles' friendship with Prince Charles was a private matter,

which she (though not he) had never brought into the public domain. If anyone was entitled to privacy, she was.

Surely she was not about to blow it. The press, I cried, is not to be "handled". Consort with the press and you tumble through the gates of Purgatory, to be consumed by reptiles, fire and torment. The only honest press agent was Hieronymus Bosch. The Prince of Wales dabbled in this witchcraft and burnt not only his fingers but hands and arms up to the elbow. Press coverage is always asymmetrical. The public figure craves what the press will never give, a sauna of public appreciation. The press wants what makes the public figure miserable, at best a one-night stand, at worst gang rape.

Mrs Parker Bowles still has her dignity and public respect intact. Asking me to suggest a "good" journalist is like asking Cleopatra to suggest a good asp. This week-end sees the much-bruited

50th birthday party at Highgrove of the lady in question. The event is accompanied by the usual cast of merry pundits.

Professors, prelates, politicians and biographers queue up at the BBC to air their view on monarchy, church, state and people. Like disputants in Henry VIII's "Great Matter", they consult ancient tomes and fondle antique words such as adulterer, atonement, mistress, disestablishment, living in sin. They compete to use "morganatic" in a soundbite. Wolsey and Cranmer stir in their graves. Deep in the vaults of the Temple, learned friends rustle through papers and start clocks. Fat times are ahead for the cats.

I notice that the only people for whom this subject generates the slightest concern, as opposed to interest, are over 50. Ask a younger person about Prince Charles and marriage and the response is a shrug. So he married the wrong girl yonks ago. So he got divorced. So he wants to marry someone else he loves. Fine. It happens all the time. They say he may one day be King, a job for which he has pre-qualified. Fine again. The current wife of a King is known as a Queen. To love and support him in his work. Good luck



In 1975 the Prince and Camilla could meet discreetly. Now they are caught in the flashlight's glare

to them both. May they be happy. What's the problem? What's the Test score?

Even for the old guard, the Great Matter has become strangely circular. The King of England is head of a "Catholic" Church which, unlike the Roman Catholic Church, claims not to "recognise" divorce — like the judge who claimed not to recognise the Beatles. The Church cannot approve, let alone sanctify, the remarriage of its head. That is surely a problem for the Church of England, not the nation. As to whether the Church of England needs royal patronage more than royal patronage needs the Church, I happily leave it to others. If Gladstone could contemplate disestablishment, it cannot be too much for Tony Blair.

Yet a change in the marital status of a future head of state does require a change in the law, as well as the approval of the existing head of state. This is archaic. Only the most grotesque organisations examine spouses during job selection. Hereditary jobs are peculiar since offspring have the benefit of a closed shop for the succession. With genetic engineering still in its infancy, blood might be said to matter. But this assumes that

physical or mental prowess are crucial to monarchy. Those days are over. Nor is heredity likely to be an issue with Mrs Parker Bowles. If the law needs to be changed, change it. If Britain's "evolutionary" constitution needs to evolve, evolve it.

This must be the least dignified and significant debate in British politics. It can bring no particular joy to the public, and only anguish to those personally involved. Sensible people, certainly the overwhelming majority of young people, accept that the Prince and his friend should be able to marry. No public good lies in keeping them apart.

Yet pundits think of ever more devious reasons for obstructing them. It is said that public opinion will not accept Mrs Parker Bowles as Queen. It is true that heads of state need some popular legitimacy where they are unelected. Politicians have voters, teachers have pupils, sellers have markets. Royalty has no product, and no mirror in which to see itself reflected. Beyond a circle of sycophantic courtiers and admiring crowds, there stands only the press and the public. But public

opinion has a habit of accepting a fait accompli. Recent polls have shown a steady swing towards a marriage of Prince Charles and Mrs Parker Bowles. Last week's MORI poll for *The Mail* on Sunday showed 60 per cent in favour of the couple "staying together". Fifty per cent accepted that he could still be King, and a falling proportion (though still high at 71 per cent) accepted that Mrs Parker Bowles might be Queen. This shift in opinion has taken place against a background of lurid media comment and a blackout on publicity.

The one thing that will wreck this satisfactory move towards the inevitable is if someone gets Mrs Parker Bowles mauling on publicity. Consultants are already circling round her court. Statues and weasels are showing seductive offers under Gloucestershire doors. The ghastly panjandrum is on the move. If the present 50th birthday celebrations are intended as a prelude to a public relations offensive, I shudder to think what may ensue.

The press is a lousy proxy for public approval. What the public will most readily accept is the sight of a new and happy royal couple, and public duties conscientiously performed.

## Prom queens

TOMORROW night's programme at the Proms in the Royal Albert Hall will see the resolution either way of a dispute between the Proms authorities and the performing orchestra, a visiting troupe

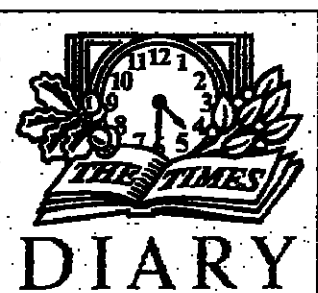


And what else did being a Tory MP equip you to do?

from Germany. The altercation began when the Ensemble Modern from Frankfurt, who will be playing a controversial programme of Frank Zappa and Steve Reich numbers, made the unprecedented demand that the Albert Hall organ be tuned to 442Hz rather than the 440Hz, to which it has been tuned since its installation in 1871.

Not so fast, said Proms organisers. The only way to achieve the desired 442Hz is by raising the temperature of the hall to 25C. "We have been in touch with the BBC weather office and it will be touch and go whether we can achieve the right temperature," said one of the organisers. "In the end, it all depends on how heated the audience gets. If we cannot raise the temperature, they will just have to play out of tune."

Asked why the German orchestra is unable to tune its instruments to the organ rather than vice versa, the organisers said: "Either it is to do with the fixed pitch of the percussion, or else they are just



being awkward." The Ensemble Modern's controversial demands are matched only by their choice of music. One piece by the 20th-century composer Lou Harrison, *Concerto for Organ and Percussion*, involves the organist striking the organ keys with a mallet. Not what Sir Henry Wood would call high culture.

Yesterday saw President Nelson Mandela turn 79 with a tribute from the financially afflicted South African Airways printed in most of the main newspapers. Under a picture of a jumbo jet are the instructions: "Hold newspaper at arm's length in front of you, make appropriate jet noises, tilt

towards your face and lift skywards, keep lifting over your head and gasp in awe. Repeat 79 times."

### Nice work

SEVEN previously unpublished manuscripts by Agatha Christie have been unearthed by her daughter and grandson. The short stories, all discovered on the pages of lost literary magazines of the 1920s, such as *The Sketch* and *The Strand*, are to be published in one volume called *While the Light Lasts and Other Stories* by HarperCollins next month.

David Bawn, the Editor at HarperCollins behind the forthcoming publication, is palpating: "Anything new by Agatha Christie is of great interest. These ones are slightly different to her normal stuff inasmuch as they are not crime stories so much as romantic stories or stories based on the supernatural."

Stephen Prichard, Agatha Christie's grandson, said: "We knew they existed, it was simply a question of finding the magazines in which the stories had been originally published. There are some interesting

techniques which I am sure the experts will leap on."

### Fishy tale

CUSTOMERS at the new Rainforest Café in London, which promises to "re-create the rainforest through a combination of live and animated tropical flora and fauna",



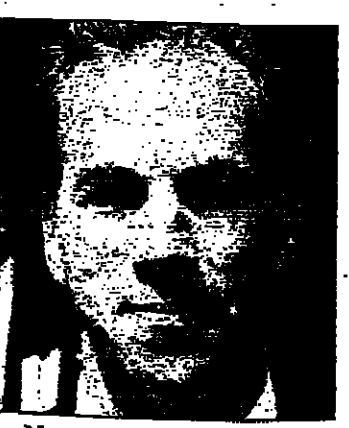
Lucky find: Agatha Christie

have been surprised to see tropical fish floating to the top of their tank, dead. The café has a menagerie of live macaws and parrots, simulated, animatronic elephants and a talking banyan tree called Tracy, all happily tolerated by the fish.

A waiter at the restaurant explained: "There is a problem with the plastic coral at the bottom of the tank. Some of the fish died and when they put some more in, they died too. An investigator is coming in to take a look this week."

### Hair, hair

THURSDAY night saw the annual party thrown by Phillip Oppenheim, the former Tory MP for Amber Valley, an all-round bloke. Accompanied by his Border collie, Vorn, he entertained the likes of Michael Portillo, the unforgivable Jerry Hayes, numerous Commons secretaries and a smattering of expatriate girls at his Chelsea home. Missing from his bathroom were the usual array of hair-restorer products. Having given up on retreating, he is ploughing his money into facial scrubs instead. Having recovered from this reve-

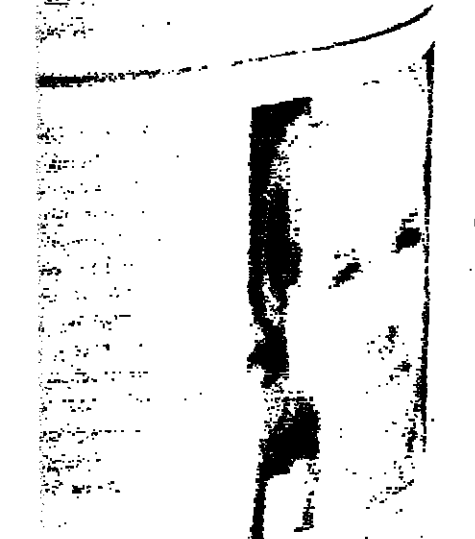


New venture: Oppenheim

lation, guests spoke of Oppenheim's various new projects. He has just about finished his novel — not that Salman Rushdie need lose any sleep — and is to embark on a magazine project with Adrian Lithgow. *The Mail on Sundays* saviour former political correspondent Oppenheim says this is at an early stage, but the talk is that it will be a sort of *Loaded* magazine for over-35s.

P.H.S





## PEACE ON WHOSE TERMS?

An IRA ceasefire does not end the need for vigilance

Gerry Adams' call on the IRA to institute a ceasefire offers hope to Northern Ireland and creates a formidable challenge for politicians across these islands. The peace process, fragile after a fraught marching season, has entered a new phase. There are opportunities to be grasped but there are also grave potential dangers. The silencing of republican guns would bring welcome, and overdue, respite for Ulster's people but the need for vigilance has not disappeared. The last IRA ceasefire was cynical, tactical and short-lived. Even as republicans protested their peaceful credentials mortars were tested and bombs primed. There is no evidence that Sinn Féin or the IRA have changed since then; their commitment to a united Ireland is unswerving. Only last week a republican bomb with the potential to create horrendous loss of life was discovered in Londonderry.

What has changed is the composition, and attitude of the British and Irish Governments. Both have been assiduous in their attention to republican demands. It is no coincidence that the statement from Gerry Adams follows an agreement between London and Dublin which would allow terrorists to enter talks, and remain at the table, without having to surrender a single bullet. If the IRA is serious about a permanent renunciation of violence and willing to accept the rules of democracy then an historic settlement could be possible which might give Ulster the peace and stability its people deserve. If, however, republicans engage in another tactical suspension and are determined to see Northern Ireland wrenched out of the United Kingdom then the terms on which they have been wooed will prove perilous.

It may seem pessimistic to the point of perversity to enter caveats when hearts yearn to hope. It would, however, be worse than naïve to forget at this moment all that has been learnt about the IRA during the murderous years of their long war. Clear-sightedness about their aims and strategy is a precondition of progress. Republicans have been heartened by the election in Dublin of a Government determined to champion nationalist interests rather than approach the peace process even-handedly. They still enjoy powerful support in the United States and the SDLP leadership will do everything in its power to get

them, and keep them, in talks. The assembly of this pan-nationalist front gives republicans political muscle and the deal on decommissioning means they do not have to barter away weapons to exercise it. Additionally, republicans believe the election in London of a Government with a large majority makes marginalising Unionist voices more easy. From where Sinn Féin sits it does not believe it has to budge. After all, it has not had to move until now.

The Government's stated determination that negotiations on Ulster's future will be time-limited may appear to put pressure on republicans to bend lest others reach a consensus uncongenial to them. Sinn Féin will, however, be inclined to believe the opposite. Republicans hope that if no agreement is reached around the talks table next May then the two Governments will impose a "solution" over the parties' heads. Since that is what Sinn Féin wants, there is hardly an incentive to reach agreement.

That "solution", which Republicans envisage as a staging post on the path to Ulster's ejection from the Union, may be put to the people in a referendum. Sinn Féin is, however, hopeful that in any referendum the British Government will act as an advocate for a settlement opposed by the representatives of those who wish to stay British. The prospect of thus provoking Unionist discontent, and potentially encouraging loyalist violence, will only delight a movement which has spent 25 years trying to destabilise the Province. Republicans may be engaging in wishful thinking, but given the way in which the peace process has been shaped by their needs so far their expectations are far from irrational. Their mountain of weapons has forced ministers to come to them, and that mountain will remain.

The weeks ahead will require resolution from the British Government if the power of the pan-nationalist front is not to shape a solution for Northern Ireland contrary to the interests, and wishes, of the Unionist majority. Optimists believe that, if in talks, republicans would find themselves constrained by the need to accept the principle of consent and must learn to live with the Union, albeit a modernised one. Republicans have, however, shown no desire so far to live with anything other than the certainty of their cause and an armistice within reach. A new ceasefire changes much, but not that.

## CLINTON FOR GORE

White House endorsement is a mixed electoral blessing

With a mere 1,207 days remaining, the contest for the American presidential election is already under way. Were it not for the inconvenience of the American Constitution — which limits the chief executive to two terms — President Clinton would doubtless seek re-election himself. As he cannot, he has decided instead to designate his successor. As we report today, through policy, personnel, and personal intervention, Mr Clinton is actively assisting the ambitions of Albert Gore. This breaks with long-established precedents that presidents remain aloof from such matters until after their party has selected a candidate.

Mr Gore must also be somewhat uncertain about the value of this early endorsement. Mr Clinton's staunch support is not an undiluted blessing. Presidential enthusiasm is hardly essential to Mr Gore's prospects. An incumbent Vice-President possesses formidable assets in the American electoral process. These include high name recognition, the ability to raise the \$20 million or more required to run for the office seriously, and considerable influence over the rules of the race itself through control over the party organisation.

These advantages have allowed three postwar Vice-Presidents — Richard Nixon, Hubert Humphrey and George Bush — to capture their party's standard despite subdued support from the President whom they served. If Mr Clinton said absolutely nothing, Mr Gore would still be the likely Democratic contender.

Such a period of silence might assist the Vice-President. As Mr Gore knows better than most, the Clinton presidency has been a

roller coaster experience. For the past six months, the President has been relatively popular: some 60 per cent of Americans register their backing for him in opinion polls. But that standing is strongly linked to, and contingent upon, the present robust health of the American economy. Even now, at the peak of his appeal, a clear majority of Americans believe that Mr Clinton's legacy will be the scandals associated with him in power rather than policy accomplishments.

Association with this President may not seem as attractive in the year 2000 as it is today. Mr Gore's reputation for personal integrity has largely enabled him to remain immune from the political impact of the President's private indiscretions. Neither Whitewater nor alleged sexual harassment can possibly be tied to him. But he has been implicated in the set of campaign finance scandals that have hampered the Administration since the onset of its second term. The current Senate investigation into the links between the Democratic Party and numerous dubious Asian political contributors may yet produce more evidence that embarrasses Mr Gore.

Even if the President remains relatively popular, the Vice-President still needs to prove himself as an independent politician. It is unlikely that the American people will simply be seeking a surrogate for a third Clinton term. George Bush never fully escaped from the shadows of Ronald Reagan. Mr Clinton cuts a less substantial figure but Mr Gore is nevertheless inescapably linked to him. That could yet prove a liability that denies him the chance to take the oath of office in his own right.

## PENNIES FROM PLUVIUS

Now is the season for discount tents

For those Britons about to set off across the Channel in search of sun, fun and as much lager as their bulging purses, weighed down by the fruits of a soaring pound, will buy, the Met Office has an unwelcome message. The British summer has reached the Continent before the island's natives. The weather forecast for most of Europe is rain, followed by more rain. It has been falling in torrents in Poland and the Czech Republic, causing catastrophic flooding. Rain is spreading west, has already drenched Austria, and is threatening to wash out the British political establishment in Tuscany and the Dordogne.

To those of us on this drizzly isle, the forecast is unusual: rain advancing from the east is not the experience of seasoned country folk. The giant vortex whirling the black clouds around the edge of the continent may presage something even more ominous, however: a global disruption of weather patterns that brings downpours to the deserts and dries up the rainforests. It all seems to be the fault of an unruly South American child: El Niño, the tepid current that flows up the coast of Peru and Ecuador

every Christmas. When it overheats, everything goes haywire. The winds blowing the warm air west slacken, the oceans around Australia cool, the eastern Pacific heats up, the rains that should fall in the Philippines fall in Latin America and the weather all the way up to Malibu destroys villas, fish stocks, crops and national economies.

When this child of the sea is temperamental, the world suffers. Last time El Niño threw a tantrum, in 1982, it caused damage estimated at \$13 billion worldwide, and set back the economy of Peru for a decade.

The rain now falling in Bohemia may, of course, have nothing to do with the Pacific. All manner of other reasons have been advanced, ranging from the volcanic explosion on Montserrat to global warming and world climatic change. Meteorologists will argue while the raindrops keep falling, but ignore the real reason. British holiday-makers have rarely had so much money to spend abroad. They are all ready to flaunt almighty sterling on the sun-soaked Mediterranean. That is the very moment for Pluvius to spoil our fun.

## Public attitudes to lowering homosexual age of consent

From Miss Elizabeth Smith

Sir, Roger Scruton's intelligent and discerning comments about the ethical issues involved in the sexual conduct of modern teenagers ("Our sexual supermarket", July 15) convey a message which is too important to be confined to the pages of *The Times*.

Liberal attitudes to sex are responsible for causing confusion in the minds of young people about what constitutes a moral sexual relationship and what is simply an act of self-indulgence. No parent or teacher should pretend otherwise.

Mr Scruton's message must surely be spelt out to a much wider and younger audience.

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH J. SMITH,  
42 Braid Farm Road,  
Edinburgh 10,  
July 16.

From Ms Helen Power

Sir, The Government and the Synod are fiddling while Rome burns [reports, July 15; letters, July 18]. For God's sake, let's get on with knowing and joyfully ordaining gay priests (who have much to give to the Church); let's equalise the age of consent to 16 and let's openly acknowledge that gay Armed Forces personnel have as much right as anyone to serve.

Then we can all get on with doing what matters: trying to create a moral framework in which it is the quality of relationships, both personal and professional, which alone counts.

Yours sincerely,  
HELEN POWER,  
46 St Leonards Avenue,  
Penylan, Cardiff.  
hpower@glam.ac.uk  
July 15.

From Mr Paul Barnes

Sir, One of the key arguments Roger Scruton puts forward for a higher age of consent for homosexuals is that young men will be at risk from homosexual advances if the age were to be lowered. Although this is a well-worn theory, all the evidence disproves it.

## Future of EU

From the President of the Young European Movement

Sir, We in Britain should welcome the proposals of the European Commission for the future of the European Union (report, later editions, July 16; leading article, July 17).

For a number of years Britain has been arguing — rightly — for the EU not to forget the new democracies of Eastern Europe and for much-needed reforms to the common agricultural policy. Now the European Commission, often seen only as the evil motor of federalist integration, is proposing precisely such measures.

We should applaud this and embrace the opportunity to ensure that Britain plays her full part in shaping the EU for the 21st century.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY HARGREAVES,  
President,  
Young European Movement,  
Dean Bradley House,  
52 Horseferry Road, SW1,  
July 17.

## Euro notes

From Mr Selwyn Hodson-Pressinger

Sir, The European Commission's decision ("Hopes for 'plastic euro' fade", Business, July 14) to scrap plans to print euro notes on plastic is eminently sensible in view of Australia's less than successful experiment.

Having Her Majesty's face disappear of its own accord from Australia's plastic bank-notes will be an irony not lost on Euro-enthusiasts or Australian republicans. However, for Britons it merely serves to remind us Australia will probably still be using paper dollar bills with the Queen's face when we are using faceless euros.

Yours sincerely,  
SELWYN HODSON-PRESSINGER,  
4 Lyall Street, Belgrave, SW1,  
July 15.

## Rights and duties

From Mr Patrick O'Brien

Sir, Before hastening to encompass human rights within British legislation (letters, July 11, 16), would it not be prudent first to define a charter of duties that those wishing to seek their rights need to fulfil?

Yours truly,  
P. O'BRIEN,  
2 Evening Glade,  
Ferdown, Dorset,  
July 16.

## Death of Versace

From Miss Anne McStravick

Sir, Gianni Versace was certainly the victim of a gruesome crime, but *The Times* announced the fact in a headline across the width of the front page. He was only a dressmaker, for heaven's sake!

Yours faithfully,  
ANNE MCSTRAVICK,  
85 rue de la Convention,  
75015 Paris.  
shs@mac.unesco.org  
July 17.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

In almost every European country there is an equal age of consent. In many it is 16 years or less. Yet I know of no evidence that young men in these countries are at any greater risk than those in Britain, where the age of consent for homosexuals is currently 18.

This same argument was used in 1993 by those who opposed a lowering of the age to 18. Yet four years on, the tide of procurement and seduction that they so firmly predicted has failed to materialise.

We should not use such spurious arguments to defend discrimination.

Yours etc,  
PAUL BARNES,  
34 Springdale Road, N16,  
July 15.

From Mr David Bevan

Sir, I have long respected Roger Scruton for his liberal views. In the interests of keeping him fully informed, therefore, I must point out that on the Croisette yesterday I saw more than one example of elderly heterosexual men in the company of women apparently several years, if not some generations, their juniors. Looking further afield, the terraces of the cafés in Monte Carlo are populated with "older" women, either singly or in groups, apparently quite untroubled by men of any age.

Is this purely a Riviera phenomenon, or has Mr Scruton ascribed to homosexuals alone the quality of ad-

miring the young for some other reason?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BEVAN,  
Villa Egée  
1 Avenue de la Rochefoucauld,  
Esplanade du Golfe, 06400 Cannes.  
dbevan@cc.computlink.co.uk  
July 16.

From the General Director of the Evangelical Alliance UK

Sir, Undoubtedly the Church must oppose prejudice within its midst over homosexuality; but that is not the same as complying with cultural pressure to abandon its historic teachings on sexuality.

The teachings of Jesus, the Bible and the traditions of the Church give no room for sex outside of monogamous, lifelong heterosexual marriage. This position, supported by the majority of biblical scholars over the past 2,000 years, does not single out gay men and women; it equally applies to premarital sex and adultery.

Yours sincerely,  
JOEL EDWARDS,  
General Director,  
Evangelical Alliance UK,  
18h Kennington Park Road, SE11,  
July 16.

From Mr James Gluckman

Sir, While I agree with much of Roger Scruton's article, I was saddened by his claim that homosexuals tend to prey on youth, and by his citing Plato as proof thereof.

The assumption that the young are "lured" into homosexuality by old pervers, only to become in due time old pervers themselves and to continue the process, has long been a crutch on which to lean in order to deny rights to homosexuals. It is no more demonstrably true than the notion that all homosexuals are effeminate, and I am dismayed to see it perpetuated in *The Times*.

Yours etc,  
JAMES GLUCKSMAN,  
5310 Summit Drive,  
Fairfax, 22030 Virginia, USA,  
July 16.

## Influence of youth

From Mr Joe Partridge

Sir, Considering Euan Blair's rumoured influence on policy concerning the environment and the millennium and the sway the royal princes apparently exert on their mother's plans, might it not be worth lowering the age of consent, voting and everything else to 12 and have done with it?

Yours faithfully,  
JOE PARTRIDGE,  
86 Idmiston Road,  
West Dulwich, SE27,  
July 15.

## Coming to terms with junk mail

From Mr Robert Breckman

Sir, Your correspondence concerning junk mail (July 17) has not mentioned unsolicited items put through a letter-box via the Royal Mail.

I have a notice on my door stating, "NO CARDS, NO LEAFLETS, NO MAGAZINES" and when a publisher ignored my repeated letters asking him not to deliver his magazine, I ultimately took him to the county court for trespass and won costs and compensation.

Others similarly pestered should do likewise to control this pervasive invasion of our privacy.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT BRECKMAN,  
Breckman & Co  
(Chartered accountants),  
49 South Molton Street, W1,  
July 17.

From Mr Brin Hodge

Sir, Would someone please explain why they find junk mail so irritating? I prefer it to come in a gaudy envelope which tells me what is inside, so that it can go straight into the recycling bin without giving me the task of opening it first. How much more civilised than an unsolicited phone call.

I do nothing that I am ashamed of.

## Happy ending

From the Ambassador of Austria

Sir, May I comment on your report today, headed "Von Trapps' happy ending". The 1965 American-made film musical, *The Sound of Music*, has never been banned in Austria. There would have been no legal basis or any other reason for such an act. The film was made primarily for the American market and was therefore shot in English. It only made its way to Austrian cinemas and TV after a German-dubbed version had been produced.

The view of the von Trapps in post-war Austria has always been a favourable one. Most Austrians agreed with Georg von Trapp's attitude and there was never any official criticism of his decision to leave Austria under Nazi rule. In 1957 the Austrian Federal President bestowed the Decoration of Honour in Gold for services to the Republic of Austria upon Maria von Trapp.

This week's ceremony in Stowe, Vermont, coincided with a visit by 89 cadets of the graduating class of the Theresianum Military Academy, who three years ago chose Georg von Trapp as their class patron. The presence of the Austrian Consul General was meant as an official tribute and a warm sign of appreciation of the von Trapps by a new generation of Austrians.

Sincerely yours,  
EVA NOWOTNY,  
Austrian Embassy,  
18 Belgrave Mews West, SW1,  
July 15.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## Art and craft in church sculpture

From Mr Peter Burman

Sir, James Dunnnett's letter (July 12) does a service in calling attention to the important sculpture commissions in prospect at Westminster Abbey, but I am not sure that he is right to make such a sharp distinction between "artists" and "craftsmen". There are many ways of achieving good results.

Here in York, after a great debate locally and nationally, we are in the process of acquiring a new west doorway which will, I suspect, astonish the world by its beauty and interest.

The designs for the new sculpture have been modelled by sculptor Rory Young, after consultation about their theological significance with a member of the chapter, and carved by the outstanding team of carvers in the Minster stoneyard.

These carvers are men and women of great skill and sensitivity: the quality of their work can be seen from the finished examples on show in the Minster.

At Wells Cathedral one of the most successful new works is the King, made about 15 years ago by Simon Verity, a sculptor indeed but not too proud to work on the west front as a conservator so as to be able to understand thoroughly the language and gravitas of its 13th-century style.

At Lincoln, where I am chairman of the Fabric Advisory Council, we have new sculptures for the west front by John Roberts (an independent carver) and by Alan Micklethwaite (a member of our own stonemasonry and stone-conservation team) which I would be prepared to defend in any context.

I question whether the sculptures of our great medieval Western cathedrals would normally have been made by the Ghibertis and Donatellis of their day; some were, of course, just as the *Christ in Majesty* at Wells was made by David Wynne and the *Christ Welcoming* at Liverpool by Dame Elisabeth Frink (neither of which looks entirely convincing in its context, I feel).

I suggest that they were more often made by carvers who were close members of a team, intimately associated with the building and thoroughly familiar with the context in which they were working.

I would like to see more of their kind today and I would like to see carvers given more confidence by getting more commissions, on buildings both ecclesiastical and secular. We have a superabundance of talent in Britain in this field and, as the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has so eloquently stated in your pages (article, July 15), we need to recognise artistic work for the great national asset it is.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER BURMAN (Director),  
Centre for Conservation Studies,  
Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies,  
University of York,  
The Kings Manor, York YO1 2EP,  
July 16.

From Mr Simon Armstrong

Sir, Mr James Dunnnett is not alone in his misconceived prejudice against 20th-century stonemasons. At Wells Cathedral copies of some of the angels from niches on the west front are being commissioned from an independent artist, not from the cathedral stonemasons.

Why do attitudes like this prevail? The craftsmen who designed and constructed these magnificent buildings were both technicians and artists. For example, in the 13th century Alexander of Abingdon, whilst working on the Eleanor Cross at Waltham, was referred to indiscriminately in contemporary accounts as *imaginatio* (sculptor) and *caementarius* (stonemason).

There are many stonemasons today who are able to turn dressing stone blocks to carving statuary with all the skills and anonymity of their medieval counterparts. There is no need for a distinction to be made between craftsman and artist.

"The idea that there was an insuperable barrier between the worker and the artist... was expressed... by intellectuals who judged, classified and stratified manual work of which they had no experience" (*The Cathedral Builders*, Jean Gimpel, 1983).

Yours faithfully,  
SIMON ARMSTRONG  
(Cathedral stonemason),  
8 High Street, Nunney, Somerset,  
July 14.

## Cathedral closure

From Mrs M. J. Peel

Sir, In this college, for retired members of the clergy of the Church of England, our priests all hold strong, but not necessarily the same views on matters of doctrine, ritual and ethics, but on one issue they are unequivocally united: "Never upset the church flower-arrangers."

With their combined decades of experience, they know that Lady Bannerman (letter, July 16; see also letters, July 18) takes on flower-arrangers at her peril!

Yours truly,  
DALONI PEEL,  
The College of St Barnabas,  
Blackberry Lane, Lingfield, Surrey,  
July 18.





## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Derby Station this morning and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire (Mr John Bather).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness visited the Derby County Football Club and were received by the Chairman (Mr Lionel Pickering) and the Mayor of the City of Derby (Councillor John Fuller).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh met Club officials and players before Her Majesty opened the Stadium.

The Queen afterwards visited the Royal School for the Deaf and was received by the Chairman of Governors (Mr David De Celles Muller) and the Principal (Mr Timothy Silvester).

Her Majesty watched a performance of signed singing and an athletic display, and presented trophies.

The Queen subsequently opened the new Resource Centre for the School.

Her Majesty later opened the new Derbyshire Children's Hospital and was received by the Chairman (Mr Norman Woods) and the Chairman of the Kite Appeal (Mr Michael Thornton).

The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, who have previously visited Rolls Royce, this afternoon honoured the Chairman (Sir Ralph Robbins) with her presence at Loughborough at the Sir Henry Royce Centre.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness later visited Hardwick Hall and was received by the Chairman of the National Trust (Mr Charles Nunn) and the Chairman of the Kite Appeal (Mr Michael Thornton).

Finally, The Queen opened the new offices of the District of Bolsover and was received by the Chairman (Councillor Mrs Pamela Richardson).

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, later visited the Royal Yorkshire Yacht Club, Windsor Crescent, Bridlington, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire (Mr Richard Marriott).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
July 18: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Irish Regiment, this afternoon received

Lieutenant-Colonel John Rochelle upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer, 5th Battalion.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Dinner on the eve of the Royal International Air Tattoo at Royal Air Force, Fairford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwell).

CLARENCE HOUSE  
July 18: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon visited the Thane Allied Air Crew Memorial Statue.

Her Majesty, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, subsequently arrived at Walmer Castle.

Dame Frances Campbell-Prescott and Sir Alastair Ald were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE  
July 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Guide Association, this afternoon visited the Bronte Flower Festival at the Guides Cymru Training Centre, Llandinam, to celebrate fifty years of Guiding at Bronte.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Powys (Mr Mervyn Bourdillon).

KENSINGTON PALACE  
July 18: The Duke of Gloucester today presented the Construction Industry Training Board's prizes at the Civil Engineering College, Birmingham, King's Lynn, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk (Sir Timothy Colman).

YORK HOUSE  
ST JAMES'S PALACE  
July 18: The Duchess of Kent this afternoon took the Salute at the Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London SW5.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE  
West Thames Regional Health Authority, this afternoon attended a Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of St Matthew's Children's Fund for Ethiopia in the Church of St Alban the Martyr, Brookside, Stoke Newington, London N16.

Her Royal Highness, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening took the Salute at a performance of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, London SW5.

## Royal engagements

TODAY:  
The Princess Royal, as President, Save the Children Fund, will attend an open-air concert in Ballindalloch Castle Ground, Ballindalloch, Banffshire at 7.00.

The Duke of Kent, as President, RAF Benevolent Fund, will attend the International Air Tattoo, at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, 11.00.

TOMORROW:  
The Duke of Gloucester will attend the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, 10.45.

## Dinner

ILEX  
Mrs Patricia Dilley, President of the Institute of Legal Executives, presided at a reception and dinner held last night at Chatsworth House, Derbyshire, after her election at the first meeting of the council. District Judge David Lymon also spoke. Among others present were:

Mr Geoffrey Hoon, Mr Judge Ian Davidson, QC, the President of Nottingham Law Society and the President of the Derby Law Society.

## Watermen and Lightermen

The following have been elected officers of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr J.C. Jenkinson; Senior Warden, Mr C. Livett; Junior Wardens, Mr J.G. Johnson, Mr L.G. Barrow, Mr C.G. Newns.

## Appointments

Ms Helen Wrod, Mr Paul Raymond Carr and Mr Philip Pelly to be District Judges, Mr Wood took up his appointment on the North Eastern Circuit on June 30. Mr Carr and Mr Pelly were assigned to the South Eastern Circuit, from July 1 and July 9 respectively.

## Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Lord Justice Auld, 60; Lord Bethell, 59; Mr David Bove, MEP, 42; Sir Norman Brain, former diplomat, 90; Mr Cameron Cochran, former Headmaster, Fettes College, 64; Judge Viscount Colville of Culross, QC, 64; Professor R. Duckworth, Emeritus Professor of Oral Medicine, London University, 68; Baroness Elles, 76; Miss Evelyn Glenzie, percussionist, 32; Sir Anthony Graham, former chairman, Joint Consultants Committee, 67; Major-General D.E. Isles, 73; Dr Carole Jordan, FRCS, astronomer, 56; Mr Richard Knight, former Headmaster, Oundle and Monkton Combe schools, 62; Sir Herbert Laming, civil servant, 61; Mr Brian R.W. Lockhart, Headmaster, Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, 53; Professor Mary McGowan, neurologist, 74; Mr Brian May, rock guitarist, 50; Sir David Money-Coutts, former chairman, Coutts and Company, 66; Mr Dominik Mudrowicz, director of music, National Theatre, 45; Mr Ilic Nastase, tennis player, 51; Mr Adrian Noble, artistic director, Royal Shakespeare Company, 47; Dr Archie Norman, paediatrician, 65; Sir Frederick O'Brien, QC, former Sheriff Principal of Louth and Borders, 80; Air Chief Marshal Sir David Parry-Evans, 62; Mr Dennis Stevenson, trustee chairman, Tate Gallery, 52; Judge Sir Lawrence Viner, Recorder of London, 73; Professor Adrian Webb, Vice-Chancellor, Glamorgan University, 54; Mr Henry Wendt, former chairman, SmithKline Beecham, 64; Professor Richard Whitfield, Warden, St George's House, Windsor Castle, 59.

TOMORROW: The Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair, 77; Sir Christopher Benson, joint deputy chairman, Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance Group, 64; Lady Margaret Colville, 79; Professor Sir John Dacie, haematologist, 85; M. Jacques Delors, former President, Commission of the European Community, 72; Sir Antony Driver, former chairman, South West Thames Regional Health Authority, 77; Mr E.O.M. Edlidge, chairman, BTR, 62; General Sir Jack Hamman, 77; Sir Sylvia Heil, MP, 55; Sir Edmund Hillary, KG, first man to reach the summit of Mount Everest, 78; Mr Edward Leigh, MP, 54; Lord McGowan-Murray, 40; Miss Elizabeth Mannes, former Headmistress, Felixstowe College, 80; Lord Palumbo, 62; Sir Jeffrey Petersen, former diplomat, 77; Mr Walter Plowright, FRCS, veterinarian, 74; Mr Michael Quinn, 51; Mr John Rees, former Head Master, Blundell's School, 54; Dame Diana Rigg, actress, 59; Viscount Simon, 57; Viscount Slim, 70; Miss Elizabeth Tucker, former Headmistress, Headington School, Oxford, 61; Mr John White, former managing director, British Telecom, 74.

Anniversaries  
TODAY  
BIRTHS: Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury 1663-77, Ellastone, Staffordshire, 1834; Edgar Degas, painter, Paris, 1834; Edward Pickering, astronomer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1846; Charles Mayo, surgeon, Rochester, Minnesota, 1865; A.J. Cronin, novelist, Carradross, Strathclyde, 1896; Herbert Marcuse, philosopher, Berlin, 1900.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

The Mary Rose, the pride of King Henry VIII's battle fleet, sank in the Solent, 1545.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel's steamship Great Western was launched at Bristol, 1837.

The first all-metal liner, Brunel's Great Britain, was launched from Bristol, 1843; and brought back to Britain from the Falklands on this day, 1970.

TOMORROW  
BIRTHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.



This dramatic poster, A is for Apple, was designed by Simon and Marjorie to promote the Beatles' shop in Baker Street, London. It is one of many pieces of original artwork, rare posters, handbills and flyers for concerts, Underground magazines, album covers and photographs of psychedelic events from the Sixties that Bonhams Chelsea will be auctioning on September 16 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the 'Summer of Love'.

## Anniversaries

TODAY  
BIRTHS: Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury 1663-77, Ellastone, Staffordshire, 1834; Edgar Degas, painter, Paris, 1834; Edward Pickering, astronomer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1846; Charles Mayo, surgeon, Rochester, Minnesota, 1865; A.J. Cronin, novelist, Carradross, Strathclyde, 1896; Herbert Marcuse, philosopher, Berlin, 1900.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; Hans Wilhelm Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Hanoi, 1965.

## Marriages

Mr A.S. Borchardt and Miss C.R. Johnson  
The marriage took place on July 12, 1997, in St James' Church, Louth, Lincolnshire, of Mr Alexander Borchardt, elder son of Dr and Mrs Felix Borchardt, of Fladbury, Worcestershire, to Miss Caren Rebekkah Johnson, only daughter of Mr Kenneth Johnson, of Louth, Lincolnshire.

Mr P. Fleming and Miss J. Carter  
The marriage took place on Saturday, July 12, at St Mary's Church, Great Baddow, between Mr Philip Fleming, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robin Fleming, of Steeple Barton, Oxfordshire, and Miss Jane Carter, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Carter, of Great Baddow, Essex. The Rev Roger Wakeley officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Miss and Mrs Hester Fleming, Katie Vrijland and Oliver Jacobs. Mr Rory Fleming was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr M. Lovett and Miss M. A. Brown  
The marriage took place on Tuesday, July 15, in Reading, of Mr Mark Lovett, son of the late Mr Alfred Lovett, and of Mrs Mary Lovett, of Harnham, West Sussex, to Miss Anne Brown, daughter of the late Mr Frank Brown, and of Mrs Dorothy Brown, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Mr M. Lovett and Miss M. A. Brown  
The marriage took place on Tuesday, July 15, in Reading, of Mr Mark Lovett, son of the late Mr Alfred Lovett, and of Mrs Mary Lovett, of Harnham, West Sussex, to Miss Anne Brown, daughter of the late Mr Frank Brown, and of Mrs Dorothy Brown, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Mr M. Lovett and Miss M. A. Brown  
The marriage took place on Tuesday, July 15, in Reading, of Mr Mark Lovett, son of the late Mr Alfred Lovett, and of Mrs Mary Lovett, of Harnham, West Sussex, to Miss Anne Brown, daughter of the late Mr Frank Brown, and of Mrs Dorothy Brown, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Mr M. Lovett and Miss M. A. Brown  
The marriage took place on Tuesday, July 15, in Reading, of Mr Mark Lovett, son of the late Mr Alfred Lovett, and of Mrs Mary Lovett, of Harnham, West Sussex, to Miss Anne Brown, daughter of the late Mr Frank Brown, and of Mrs Dorothy Brown, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Mr M. Lovett and Miss M. A. Brown  
The marriage took place on Tuesday, July 15, in Reading, of Mr Mark Lovett, son of the late Mr Alfred Lovett, and of Mrs Mary Lovett, of Harnham, West Sussex, to Miss Anne Brown, daughter of the late Mr Frank Brown, and of Mrs Dorothy Brown, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Mr M. Lovett and Miss M. A. Brown  
The marriage took place on Tuesday, July 15, in Reading, of Mr Mark Lovett, son of the late Mr Alfred Lovett, and of Mrs Mary Lovett, of Harnham, West Sussex, to Miss Anne Brown











سكرا من لاند



The royal  
ratpack  
exposes  
itself  
features - 7

# THE TIMES weekend

Why sick  
pets are  
given the  
needle  
features - 11



SATURDAY JULY 19 1997

Radio 4's *Farming Today* is under threat. **Damian Whitworth** on an eccentric corner of the broadcasting field



Many early-morning listeners, not only country people, hope that Radio 4's *Farming Today* will continue till the cows come home, whether it is commenting on farmers' views and agricultural doings or ministerial un-doings

## N Mucking about at the BBC

Next Thursday is *Judgment Day* at Radio 4. James Boyle, the controller, has devised a major shake-up for his station and will explain to the BBC governors which programmes he wants to cast into outer darkness.

One of those widely tipped for the chop, or at the very least radical change, is also one of the corporation's oldest. Its rural tone was around long before Boyle was born, it goes on air six days a week at a time when most senior executives at the BBC Broadcasting Company are still in bed. For 15 minutes every weekday and 40 minutes on Saturday it concerns itself with Britain's biggest field of employment and has been the preferred listening of 'early risers' everywhere, town or country. And its influence on recent political life should not be underestimated.

*Farming Today*, 60 years old this year, is expected to be axed or subsumed into a new, ex-

tended *Today* programme. Either option will cause uproar among its listeners, many of whom have discovered a new lease of campaigning life after the success of the recent countryside rally in Hyde Park. The threat to *Farming Today*, they argue, is just another assault on their way of life. But on this occasion they can count for support on an army of townies who greet the dawn fortified by a dose of milk quotas and outside broadcasts drowned out by bleating.

Boyle's office says he is a regular listener to *Farming Today*. But if the 6.10am transmission time has been a weakness for the programme — because many executives and mandarins are unfamiliar with it and so do not care about it — then it has also been its greatest

strength. At that ungodly hour *Farming Today* provides a surreal bridge between sleep and the harsh realities of *Today*'s John Humphrys and James Naughtie, an interlude as bewildering as the dreams from which listeners are trying to raise themselves.

While *Farming Today* is an important information service for those preparing to put oil in their tractors, only 10 per cent of listeners are farmers. The rest of the one million who tune in each week hail from every geographical location, conurbation and country, and from all walks of life.

Regular listeners, such as Bob Ayling, the chairman of British Airways, and the union boss Bill Jordan say the programme provides a window on rural life from their hectic

urban routine. They love its idiosyncrasies.

The precursors to *Farming Today* first crept on to the airwaves in 1929, starting with the solemn listing of the Fatstock Prices.

Things livened up by comparison when Douglas Hurd's father, Anthony, a Times journalist, took over a weekly evening programme called *Farmers Only*, from which *Farming Today* emerged in 1937. By 1964 it had a daily dawn slot but the Fatstock Prices remained.

The noisiest row over its future occurred in 1990/91 when again it was threatened with the axe. But it was saved by a vociferous campaign and the fact that its producers had

the foresight, in the mid to late 1980s, to make it more palatable.

One of the driving forces behind the change was Dylan Winter, a producer and presenter of the programme who appreciated that at that time of the morning things could, and should, be just a little crazy. "The beautiful thing about *Farming Today* is that your boss is in bed when it goes out," he says.

Winter's particular brand of presenting was defined by his treatment of the by now legendary Fatstock Prices. One day, instead of the office PA reading this tedious shopping list, listeners fumbling for their socks were hit by the cheery Irish brogue of Terry Wogan. The next day it was Jimmy Young. "You can't get duller than the

Fatstock Prices. We basically lured Wogan and Young by saying that the other had agreed to do it. We didn't tell the listeners who was doing the readings before hand. Wogan did them like that chap who does the football results and tells you by the tone of his voice who has won. You could tell before he finished whether a price was up or down."

The anarchy was picked up by the guests. Winter's partner in crime was Tim Finney, now an organic butcher, who presided over some of the more bizarre on-air proceedings. One morning Robin Pooley, then chief executive of the Potato Marketing Board, was a live guest in the studio. "I told him just before we came back on air what I was going to ask him and that we had 25 seconds

left. We came on air and he said: 'I've no idea what you are talking about but I do think the standard of bacon in the BBC breakfast is terrible.' And he talked about this until the end of the programme."

The next week, by coincidence, Pooley's brother, Peter, a big shot in Brussels, was on. Finney asked him a tricky question and recalls: "He said, 'That's a very interesting question...' and then he just started barking. I said: 'What's going on?' and he said: 'Woof, woof. I've got an Old English sheep dog here and he wants to go for a walk. What's the question again?' He didn't have a bloody dog. He didn't want to answer the question and he wanted to go one better than his brother."

Such lunacy was born in an atmosphere that would horrify the corporation middle managers today. Finney recalls members of the *Farming Today* team regularly going out for a

Continued on page 3

SHOPPING..... 16 GARDENING..... 16 LIFE AND SOUL..... 7 PROPERTY..... 8-10 FEATURES..... 11 COUNTRY LIFE..... 13 TRAVEL..... 15-21 GAMES..... 23

PLAY IN A MINUTE AND EVEN ON HOLIDAY IT COULD BE YOU.

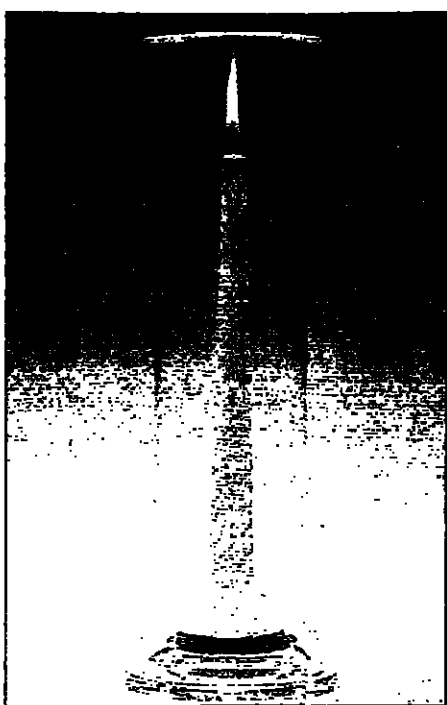
JUST MARK A 'NO. OF WEEKS' BOX ON YOUR PLAYSIP.

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

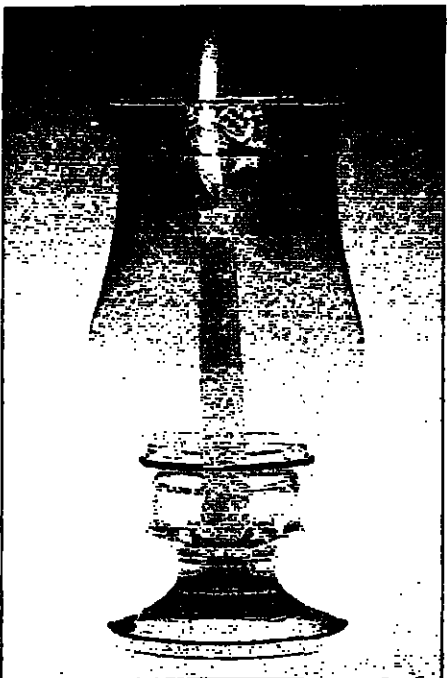
© Camelot Group plc 1997

# How does your garden glow?

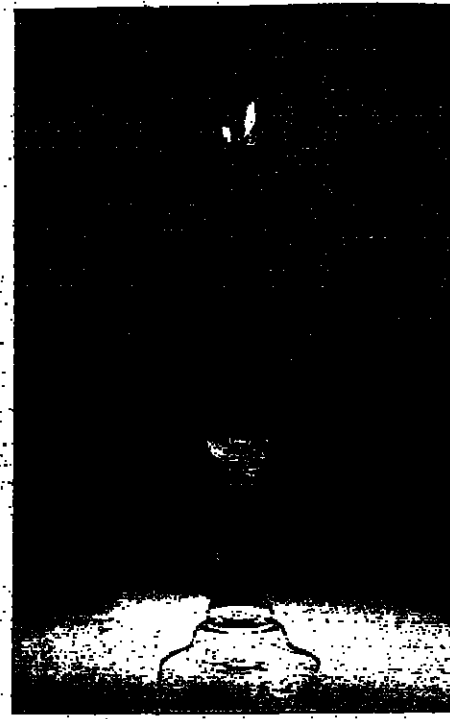
What better way to shed light on those long hot summer evenings, both indoors and out, than with the magical warmth of a lantern? Sudi Pigott selects some of the best



ABOVE: Cylindrical storm lantern, £14, Habitat, branches nationwide (0645 334433)  
BELOW: Moroccan-inspired glass lantern by Maryse Boxer, £25, in six colours, from Chez Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-245 9493)



TOP ROW: Top Tiny night hanging candle, £8.95, Colour Blue, Beckhaven House, 9 Gilbert Road, SE11 (0171-820 7700). BOTTOM ROW (left to right): Hurricane lamp with criss-cross lattice pattern, £14.95, The Cornan Shop, Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-589 7401). Melon lantern, £12.95, The Pier, branches nationwide (0171-814 5020). Indonesian free-standing metal lantern with perforated leaf design, £39.95, The Pier, as before. Tall spiral candle holder, £14.95 (including candle), Colour Blue, as before. Zinc lantern with star motif decoration, £9.95, Angelic, 6 Neal Street, WC2 (0171-240 2114; or for nearest store call 0171-267 9299). Ribbed glass lantern on a chain in blue or orange, £7.95, Angelic, as before  
Photographs by Des Jenson. Styling by Caroline Grimiths



ABOVE: Elegant extra tall hurricane-glass storm lantern, £125, Marston & Langinger, 192 Ebury Street, SW1 (0171-824 8818)  
BELOW: Clear Vase-style lantern, £1.129, Laique, 182 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-499 8228)



## 'It filtered down from command level that No 10 was not happy'

Continued from page 1  
drink after preparing the next day's programme, staying too long in the pub and then deciding it was not worth going home.

People used to sleep in the office and get a wake-up call from reception to do the show. Then one chap, who got booted out of home by his wife, lived in the office for four months and nobody batted an eyelid. It was very easy. He had 24-hour access, a 24-hour canteen, showers and baths and toilets and slept on a chaise-longue. The only thing he didn't have was somewhere to do his laundry.

But it wasn't only the staff who made themselves at home. The *Farming Today* conference room, above the office in a strange half-forgotten corner of Broadcasting House, was also inhabited. "On a couple of occasions we

went in and disturbed somebody asleep under the piano. I recognised her as someone who had come in looking for a job. I saw her a few times after that in Broadcasting House looking terribly sheepish. She was a sort of bag lady who had made her camp up there. The jobs were advertised on the notice boards and she would go round bang on all sorts of doors, get rejected, go and have some lunch and then go back to her hidey hole."

The relaxed and charmingly chaotic working conditions did not make things easy for the reporter-presenters (journalists did both). "We used to spend a lot of time sleeping in the show and then go and sleep outside a Little Chef, have breakfast and record a story somewhere up country and send it over for the next day's programme," Winter says.

Those who lived nearby would go home for a snooze

after the show and then return at normal office hours to plan the next day's programme. One female reporter, befuddled after such a start to her day, arrived at work fearing the sack in the belief that she had overslept and missed the show. Only when a recording was played back and she heard herself presenting that day's broadcast did she accept she had done it. The environment in which the programmes were made may have been insane but the mission to inform was not forgotten.

*Farming Today* broadened its appeal by dropping the Fatstock Prices and tackling more general countryside issues, but was ahead of most of the field on the biggest farming story of all. "Dylan Winter made a fantastic programme on BSE but *Today* and *PM* weren't interested until months later when the newspapers started running stories," Finney says. The programme's handling of the beef crisis has continued to receive widespread acclaim, culminating in this year's Sony Award for its programme *Apocalypse Cow*. This year, too, it received the Glenfiddich Radio Programme of the Year award for its exposé on Spam.

I could be argued that the influence of *Farming Today* in the 1980s was as great as any other radio or television programme. It was certainly the preferred listening of Margaret Thatcher, who caught just a few minutes of the radio every morning before starting work around 6.30am.

"Once Mrs Thatcher spoke to the NFU and said that farmers and other early risers listen to *Farming Today* and I recommend it to you," So we stuck a recording of that on the answerphone in the office," Winter says. "A few days later the message came down from on high in the BBC to 'get that off the answer machine'. It had filtered down through levels of command that No 10 was not happy."

For others, Thatcher's fascination with the programme was less amusing. "She was a regular listener and, as a result, it used to put her at a considerable advantage over her colleagues. Many of them were reduced to listening to it themselves in order not to be upstaged," says Sir Charles Powell, who was her private secretary. He is discreet about naming names, but adds: "I heard reports on the Whitehall

grapevine of ministers going back to their offices and cursing that they weren't being kept as up to date as she was. Sir Bernard Ingham, Thatcher's former press secretary, concurs. "She displayed an alarming knowledge of the subject of agriculture, much to the distress of the ministry. She was always better briefed than most of her ministers. Frequently her listening came out in remarks, and it was important for the problem of Europe because she would know about milk quotas or whatever."

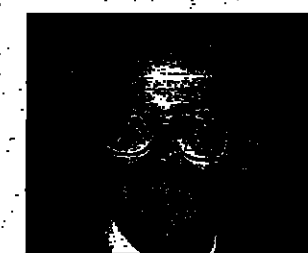
John Gummer, a former Minister of Agriculture, suffered miserably as a result of *Farming Today* and did not want to discuss the programme when I called him. Winter was the first man to get the acerbic food hygienist Professor Richard Lacey on the radio, and on one occasion he tore into Gummer. "Presumably Thatcher heard it and gave Gummer a bad time," Winter says, "because I was summoned to the Ministry of Agriculture and as I went up to Gummer's office I met him in the lift. I said 'hello' but he ignored me completely. I was going to follow him into his office but I was stopped and kept standing there in the corridor. Eventually I went in his office and he was sitting at

this huge desk, and he said he had never been treated so badly. After that we let Lacey have another crack at him." Douglas Hogg, another former agriculture minister, didn't serve in Thatcher's Cabinet but observes grudgingly: "She didn't sleep. Most people are sensible enough to go to sleep." Throughout his BSE-tormented days he listened to the programme only on Monday mornings when driving up from his constituency, but says he would mourn its passing. "I never had any complaints about the way I was treated by *Today* or *Farming Today*. It would be a loss to the farming community, there is no doubt about it. And you could argue that it is part of the obligation that flows from having a public service licence fee."

For Nicholas Soames, also a former agriculture minister, *Farming Today* is as much part of his morning routine as bacon, egg and black pudding. He is spilling for a fight against what he sees as dangerous homogenisation of Radio 4. "It is generally my experience that the better sort of politician, of whom there are increasingly few, wakes up to *Farming Today* every morning. It is an old, valued



Addict: Lady Thatcher



Fan: Jack Cunningham



Bitten: Paula Hamilton



Fatstock man: Terry Wogan

### BOYLE'S LORE

JAMES BOYLE, the controller of Radio 4, spent six months reviewing his programmes before drawing up plans for his revamp.

Nobody knows for sure what he has decided but there have been a number of apparent leaks from the BBC about what is to disappear from the airwaves.

Suggestions that up to 20 or 30 programmes are to go are almost certainly exaggerations, but there are likely to be a number of losses and major rescheduling of the survivors.

One of the strongest rumours is that *The Archers* may get an extra weekend edition. Those who believe this is being offered as a sop because *Farming Today* is to be either axed or truncated and incorporated into *Today* argue that this misunderstanding agricultural broadcasting completely.

There have been questions in the Commons following talk that *Yesterday in Parliament* is under threat, and angry comment about suggestions that the format of *Start the Week* might be altered.

Staff at *You and Yours*, *Sport, Pic Four* and *Breakaway* are said to be anxious, and Ned Sherrin may be at a loose end if his boisterous Saturday morning show goes, as some believe it will.

*Kaleidoscope*, *PM* and *Woman's Hour* may also find themselves in different slots.

D.W.



Sitting pretty, but for how long? Anna Hill, one of the early-bird voices of *Farming Today*



Everything you ever wanted to know about dinosaurs on one exciting CD-ROM!

Available NOW from all good software outlets

**DK Multimedia**  
Visit us on the World Wide Web at <http://www.dk.com>

## Could you offer a home-from-home?

For almost two decades, education experts Gabbitas have been providing high-quality Guardianship services for overseas students from 10-18 years of age attending boarding schools in the UK. With demand rapidly increasing we are currently seeking families to act as Guardians in all parts of the country, particularly in Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Devon, Dorset, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, Sussex, Worcestershire and Yorkshire.

Are you the sort of people who would gladly offer a home-from-home to a student a long way from their own country? Could you give support, encouragement and friendship and show how good our family life can be? Would you enjoy attending school events featuring your student and having well-qualified staff over arrangements for half-term and exam weekends? Most of all, are you and your family able to provide a safe and secure break from school and flexible enough to become a second family to one of our students?

To discuss the possibility of becoming a Guardian, please phone Jill Shilcock, Head of Guardianship, or any member of our team.

### GABBITAS

EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS

128 - 130 Regent Street, London W1R 6EE  
Tel: 0171 734 0161 Fax: 0171 437 1764

In addition to Guardianship services, Gabbitas offers parents and students friendly, independent, expert advice on all stages of education in the UK.



Heath Brown on the

mid-season transitional styles that are being tested on the high street

# Blast of winter for the summer

The transitional season is upon us — that time of year when the fashion houses introduce a range of clothes between their summer and winter collections. They are not made up of the first delivery of the autumn/winter ranges, but of revamped pieces from summer as well as tasters of what is to come in winter.

"Having a transitional range gives us the opportunity to present a strong indication of the season to follow," says Angela Desio of Jeffrey Rogers. "It also gives the customer new and exciting garments to wear."

Labels such as Oasis, Laura Ashley, Warehouse and French Connection all do these ranges — whether they call them mid-season, cruise wear or transitional. Some labels, such as Gap and Next, are regularly stocking up with different fashions. "We are continually introducing new deliveries," says a spokesman from Next. "We can offer customers something different every time they come in."

It is also a trial period. As well as definite looks from the new autumn/winter ranges, new shapes, lengths and styles in a variety of colours are introduced to see which the customer likes best. At Marks & Spencer the popularity of certain colours is tested with different styles of T-shirts, and whichever one proves the most popular will be marketed.

When buying, go for anything in white — it looks good for the tail end of the summer and will be perfect for the incoming 'icy winter' styles. Also lurex threading and hints of sparkle work for both daywear and eveningwear in unfussy separates — simple tops, T-shirts, trousers and jackets. For tailored clothes, choose pin-stripe, the new winter blockbuster, and skirts should be mini.

But remember, if you like it, buy it — for transitionals always have a short shelf-life.

Photographs by Richard Burns. Hair and make-up by Sarah Gottschick using Glauca Rossi Products (mail order, 0171-289 7485). Styling by Amandip Uppal



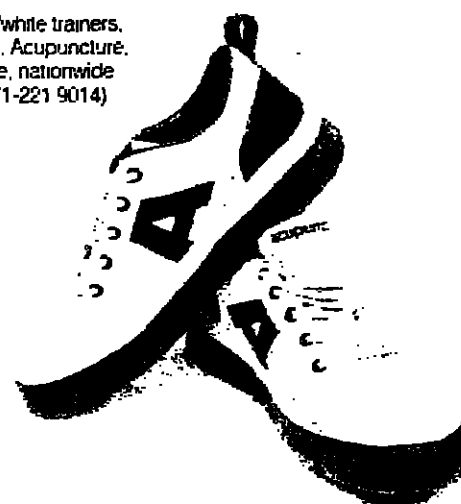
ABOVE: White cotton stretch jacket, £39.99; matching trousers, £29.99, Jeffrey Rogers, The Plaza, 120 Oxford Street, W1 and branches nationwide (01923 474400). Bright blue cap sleeve cotton T-shirt, £20, French Connection, 249 Regent Street, W1 (0171-493 3124)

LEFT: Pin-stripe crepe shirt dress, £30, Etam, 484 Oxford Street, W1, and selected branches nationwide (0171-494 4732)

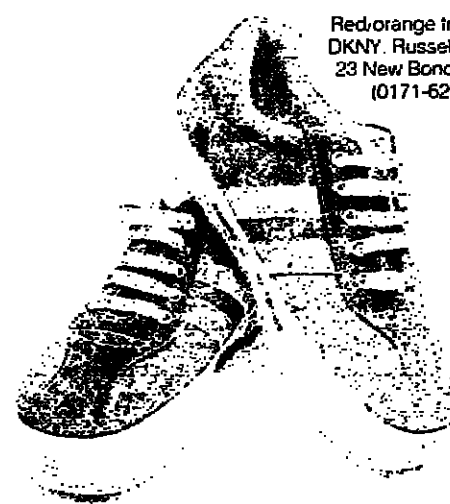
## THREE OF A KIND

TRAINERS are no longer just made for sport — welcome to the age of virtual training shoes for those in fashion's fast lane. H.B.

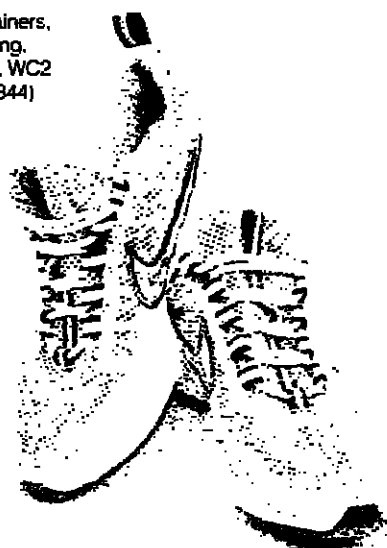
Black/white trainers, £54.95, Acupuncture, Office, nationwide (0171-221 9014)



Red/orange trainers, £65, DKNY, Russell & Bromley, 23 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 6903)



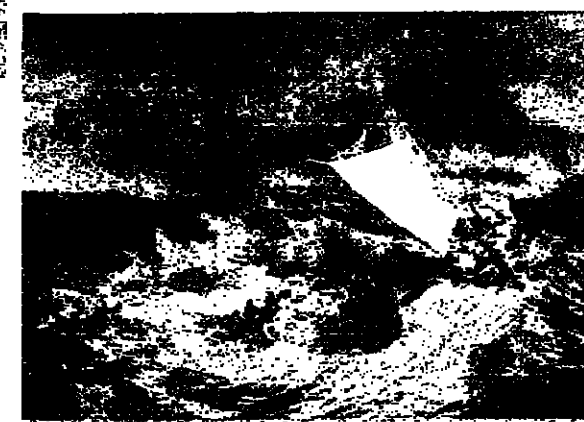
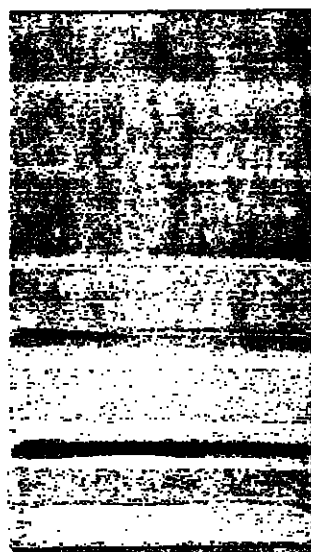
Silver mesh trainers, £80, Offspring, 60 Neal Street, WC2 (0181-838 4344)



AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

## Tate Gallery posters — save £2 off each



Today *The Times*, in association with the Tate Gallery, London, offers readers the exclusive opportunity to own poster-sized prints of the four famous paintings featured here for only £6.95 each, plus p&p, a saving of £2 per poster.

The four images, Heron's *Horizontal Stripe Painting*, Burne-Jones's *King Cophetua* and *The Beggar Maid*, Constable's *Flatford Mill* and Turner's *The Shipwreck*, are currently on display in the Tate Gallery as part of the Tate 100 Centenary selection.

The overall size of three of the posters is 60x80cms. The Burne-Jones is 40x80cms. They are only available by mail order and not currently on sale in the Tate shop.

As well as being part of the current Tate 100, two of the images are to be included in forthcoming exhibitions. The Burne-Jones will be in *The Age of Rossetti, Burne-Jones and Watts: Symbolism in Britain 1860-1910* which opens in October. The Heron is to be part of a retrospective next June.

Post the completed order form to: Tate Gallery Publishing Ltd (Times Poster Offer), Millbank, London, SW1P 4RG. Allow 28 days, from receipt of your order, for delivery. Offer ends August 31, 1997.

TATE-PRINT-ORDER FORM		
Please send the following posters:		
Title	Quantity	Price
I enclose cheque/PO made payable to Tate Gallery Publishing Ltd, or Please debit my credit card		Total
		UK postage £2.50
		Total £
Expiry date <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name and address		
Postcode Telephone		



Lilac/blue lurex stripe T-shirt, £30, French Connection, 249 Regent Street, W1 (0171-493 3124). Denim A-line skirt, £24.99, Oasis, branches nationwide (01865 881986). Multi-coloured leather wedge sandals, £54.99, Ravel, 184-188 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-631 0224)



Gold sparkle cotton vest, £30; gold silk embroidered trousers, £80, French Connection, 249 Regent Street, W1 (0171-493 3124). Bright blue suede strappy mules, £185, Gina, 189 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 2932)

GEORGE PLUMPTRE



# The exotic cover story

Vibrant images of cottages covered with dazzling orange bougainvilleas, fences near-invisible under the luminous orange trumpets of *Pyrostegia venusta*, the golden shower, or trees dripping with trails of palest pink Wonga Wonga vines are frequently among the memories we bring back with us from holidays in warmer climates.

The good news is that the run of warmer summers increases our chances of success with these exotic climbers which flower so vividly and luxuriantly in the Mediterranean and the tropics. In fact, they can be grown in Britain with little more trouble than it takes to grow pelargoniums.

Research by the University of Reading predicts that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere will continue to increase, leading to a rise in global mean temperatures of 2C by about 2050. Unfortunately, this does not guarantee frost-free winters, but it does mean that well-ripened plants have a better chance of surviving cold winters.

While conservatories and glasshouses are ideal for permanent and overwintering tender plants, they are not essential. In Holland in the 17th century, when the rich merchants kept newly introduced exotics in ornate orangeries, people with less money protected theirs under a lean-to made of straw-packed hurdles. It is even easier today. Tender climbers planted against sheltered south and west-facing walls can be given additional protection with curtains of netting, horticultural fleece or bubble polythene. (Make sure that the roots are thickly mulched, as you would for a fuchsia, and then, if the

With warmer summers predicted, it should be easier to grow those lush climbers, says Barbara Abbs

top growth is damaged by frost, new shoots will often appear from the base.)

Exotic climbers can also be grown successfully in containers. Indeed, some vigorous species, such as passion flowers or bougainvillea, can be more easily kept within bounds if confined in a pot. Guy Sisson at the Plantsman Nursery in north Devon, where there was 12 degrees of frost last winter, grows his extensive stock of climbing plants in unheated greenhouses. Even such glamorous ramblers as *Beaumontia grandiflora* survived.

He recommends several that can be grown in pots, cut down in late summer and stored inside for the winter. A cellar, garage or spare bedroom will do if the temperature does not fall below zero.

The plants should be kept very dry but not allowed to dry out completely. As soon as growth begins in the spring, plants kept in dark places will need to be moved into the light. New growth can be supported on canes or trellis.

Top of Mr Sisson's list is a perennial convolvulus, *Ipomoea indica*, with rich blue trumpets which turn purplish as they age. The woody stem should be cut back to 3ft-4ft and the plant brought inside before the frost. Keep it dry.

There is also *Mandevilla x amoenae* 'Alice du Pont', with its glowing pink flowers which grow up to 4ft wide. The stem can be cut back to within a foot



*Passiflora racemosa*

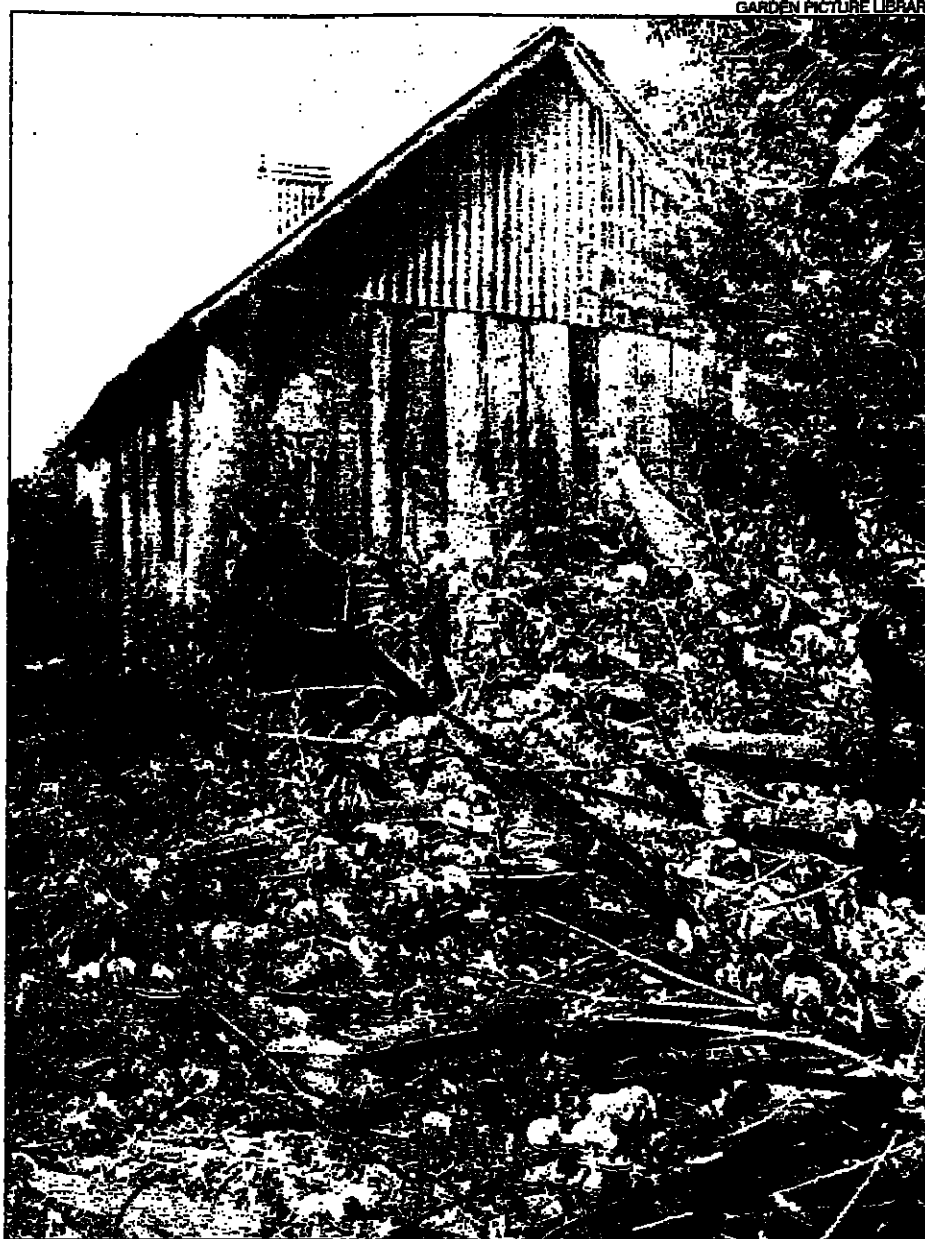
before overwintering indoors in dry conditions.

Try the fast-growing *Thunbergia grandiflora*, which can be cut back to 2ft before the winter. It has trumpet-shaped flowers from pale to deep violet-blue, and must be kept in the light during the winter because it is evergreen.

The bower plant, *Pandorea jasminoides*, is also evergreen and should not be kept in a dark garage or cellar during cold weather. The pandorea has clusters of white flowers with rich pink throats and flowers for a long period.

One of the easiest plants to store over winter is the wonderfully exotic red and yellow flowered *Gloriosa superba*, or climbing lily. It grows from a tuber, which should be lifted and kept dry and frost-free over the winter.

The climbing ragwort, *Senecio confusus*, has large orange



*Hardenbergia violacea* produces showers of small violet pea flowers in early spring

ange daisies that age to red. This can be cut back to 6ft and should be kept on a bright window-sill during winter.

Slightly harder are *Hibbertia scandens* with rich yellow flowers like single roses, *Kennedia rubicunda* with pea flowers of dusky coral and *Hardenbergia violacea* with showers of small violet pea flowers in early spring. These can be kept in a sheltered place over winter, wrapped in fleece or bubble wrap.

Westdale Nurseries in Wiltshire specialises in bougainvillea. The tiny white flowers of this plant are insignificant but the papery bracts in vivid colours are unmissable. It is available in shades other than the violent cerise of *B. glabra*, a colour I used to hate until I saw it growing on a white-painted cottage against a Mediterranean blue sky. Avoid using it against brick walls in our northern light, or try some of the subtler reds and oranges

that are available. I grow *B. 'Miss Manila'* which looks bright enough to me, although described simply as pink. Bougainvillea can be pruned back firmly and benefits from a cool resting period. If the temperature drops too low, however, it can be late in coming back into flower. For maximum flowers, give bougainvillea the sunniest spot. In a conservatory, and with careful management, it will flower more than once a year.



The climbing lily *Gloriosa superba* 'Rothschildiana'



*Bougainvillea glabra*

na jasmine *Gelsemium sempervirens*, with its strongly scented yellow flowers, can be grown this way.

*Hoya bella*, one of the few branching climbers, has a musky smell, white and maroon flowers, a small root structure and enjoys life in a hanging basket, as does *H. carnosa*, with umbels of pale pink velvet-petalled flowers.

*H. carnosa* can also be pot-grown, with the long stems snaking round a small wigwam of cane. Be sure to keep these well-watered during the summer but like all other tender plants keep them dry during cold weather. Climbers in pots should be planted in a loam-based compost, such as John Innes No 2 or 3, with some added sand or grit. Peat-based composts are difficult to re-wet after they have been kept very dry, as these plants need to be over winter.

Suppliers: The Plantsman Nursery, North Wansford Farm, Throleigh, Okehampton, Devon EX20 2JA (01647 231618). Catalogue £1.50.

Westdale Nurseries, Holt Road, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1TS (01225 3633258). For a catalogue, send four first-class stamps.

Reads Nursery, Hales Hall, Loddon, Norfolk NR14 6QW (01508 48489). Catalogue, four first-class stamps.

Passiflora (National Collection), Lampley Road, Kingston Seymour, Clevedon, North Somerset BS21 6XS (01934 83350). Catalogue, three first-class stamps.

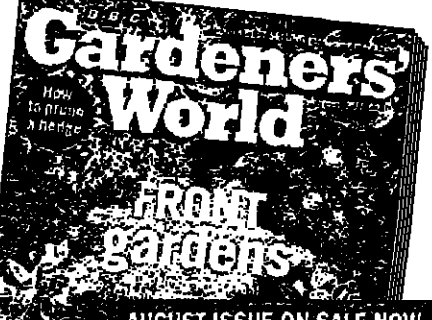
## GET YOUR FRONT GARDEN IN TRIM.

• Your front garden should say welcome. Four top designers show you how.

• See the front garden of a town house transformed by a dramatic makeover.

• Alan Titchmarsh tells you how to attract butterflies with a flower-filled border.

• Plus a basic guide on how to keep your hedges tidy and shapely all year round.



AUGUST ISSUE ON SALE NOW.

**SCATTER Clears Cats**  
from your garden  
NIGHT AND DAY, EVERY DAY

Scatter transmits random bursts of ultrasound at a frequency that cats avoid. They'll turn away long before they expose themselves to its full impact, so that it works where fences or netting fail. Fully automatic - no sensors to go wrong. Highly reliable, fully weatherproofed miniature computer circuit.

SWITCH between low-voltage mains or battery operation at will. NO effect on birds or other pets. INAUDIBLE to humans. Scatter is completely safe. Installed in minutes.

Try it for 90 days - 5 year guarantee

**FREEPHONE 0800 282824**  
FOR FREE BROCHURE

Scatter, Old Lion Court, High St, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1HQ. 01672 511136 Fax 01672 511671  
TRADE and OVERSEAS enquiries welcomed.

**COUNTAX** SAVE £503 - The Best Ever Offer on Britain's Best Selling Garden Tractor

Countax tractors cut better - leaving a fine striped finish; collect better - picking up completely even in the wet and NEVER clogging. The Countax tractor is already unbeatable value, taking into account its performance, its superior specification, much greater durability and higher resale value. Now is your opportunity to make significant savings by getting important extras FREE for a limited period only.

To: Countax, FREEPOST, Great Hasleley, Oxford OX44 7BR

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL OFFER**

FREE Powered Collector worth	£295
FREE 3 Year Warranty worth	£129
FREE Security Clamp worth	£79
<b>Total Saving</b>	<b>£503</b>

SEND FOR SPECIAL OFFER CLAIM VOUCHER and for Countax's 36 page brochure  
**PHONE FREE 0500 279927**

**THE ULTIMATE GARDEN HAT**  
Especially designed with the Gardener in mind

Lightweight and durable made of natural fibres with a green underbrim which reduces glare and gives total protection from the sun.

Adjustable tie keeps the hat firmly in place during gardening activities.

Especially designed with sweatband and ventilation to keep the head cool.

**Exceptional value**  
**£14.95**  
Including p&p

Send to:  
A.K. & Sons Ltd, PO Box 88,  
Southampton, SO14 02A

Please send me my Garden Hat. I enclose a cheque/postal order for £14.95 payable to A.K. & Sons Ltd. Allow 14 days delivery.

SIZE ☐ M (56cm) ☐ L (58cm) ☐ XL (60cm) ☐ Ladies ☐ Gents ☐ Please box 300

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
CREDIT CARD HOTLINE 01703 332111

**Churchill's Stairlifts** The Stairlift Experts

**“Churchill's are the only stairlift company I trust, and I recommend them to you.”** NAME THORA BIRD

**“When I needed to get about after my hip operation, Churchill's gave me the fastest service and the best value. If, like me, you don't want to move home, I wholeheartedly recommend them to you.”** Shon Shid

**\*\*\* special offer \*\*\***  
**PHONE NOW FREE! AND CHURCHILL'S WILL GIVE YOU A 30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE**

Installation often within 3 days after FREE home consultation.

Thousands of satisfied customers.

Most stair types catered for anywhere in Britain. 7 days a week.

Peace of mind and full 12 months comprehensive warranty included.

**0800 371 982**  
Call FREE now and ask for Christine, Clare or Joan  
7 DAYS A WEEK 9AM - 6PM  
Churchill's Stairlifts plc, FREEPOST WA 1905, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6BR

**Awnings, Canopies & Conservatory Blinds**

**CALL US NOW 01454 023980**  
**FOR HELPFUL FRIENDLY SERVICE AND ADVICE**

widest range of styles available  
INTEREST FREE OPTION AVAILABLE

written details upon request

5 year guarantee on a wide range of Awnings, Canopies, Free-standing units and Pergolas.

Phonem, Vertical and Venetian Conservatory Blinds.

100% COUNTRY AWNINGS  
116-120 WYKE STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME14 1BU

**JOHN'S**

The finest timber superbly crafted. Double glazed. The friendliest help and service.

Write or phone for free Handbook  
ORIGINAL BOX SASH WINDOW CO (Dept. CF)  
FREEPOST 24,  
Unit 10, Bridgewater Way, Windsor, Berks SL4 1BR.

**SHOW KITCHENS - WANTED URGENTLY!**

**A fitted kitchen at a fraction of the price**

We will install a superb quality kitchen at a fraction of the normal cost. All we ask in return is that you allow us to show it to 3 prospective customers.

This is a genuine offer from a leading design and installation specialist with over 25 years experience in the kitchen industry.

**Anderson & Williams Ltd**  
**FREEPHONE: 0800 0720377**

**AWNINGS DIRECT**

An Extensive Range of Colours and Styles  
From £295 information and brochure line

**FREE PHONE 0800 0740496**



# Stephen Anderton meets the fruit lovers who are fighting to save Britain's threatened older varieties



Chris Godden shows off the results of the apple grafting at Brogdale

## Rootin' for old apples

What do you do if you want to replace that beautiful but ancient, and perhaps unidentified, apple tree soldiering on at the bottom of the garden producing delicious fruit year after year? How do you get it propagated?

One source of help is the Brogdale Horticultural Trust at Faversham in Kent, which is holding one of its "propagate-whilst-you-wait" days on August 3 when you can take along material from your own trees and have it "budded" on to heavy, pot-grown stocks (in spring propagating is done by grafting on to lighter, bare-rooted stocks).

You can even send in suitable, strong, year-old shoots for grafting. Or you can ask for trees to be propagated from the 2,300 varieties of apple in the National Apple Collection at Brogdale.

The collection includes many old varieties, a lot of which were in danger of being lost from the commercial market. One reason for this is that when old orchards of large, standard trees are replaced for smaller more manageable trees on modern rootstock, the replacement variety has most commonly been one favoured by the mass purchasers, the supermarkets. And so Gala, Braeburn, Granny Smith and Cox prevail.

But even the big stores are now becoming interested in unusual varieties, and Brogdale's specialist fruit is also in demand at stylish restaurants and emporiums such as Fortnum and Mason, in London. Brogdale has survived over the years by the skin of its teeth. It began life in 1924 as a joint fruit enterprise between the Government and the Royal Horticultural Society, and in the 1950s became a

solely Government-funded fruit trialling station. Mainly because of the interest of the first director, "Jock" Potter, apples were collected on the 150-acre site. There were also collections of old varieties of pears, cherries, plums, currants, gooseberries, strawberries, nuts, medlars and vines.

The Government closed Brogdale in 1990, saying that the collections of old varieties were non-commercial. The neighbouring East Malling Research Station, working on fruit development, regarded the Brogdale collections as a health hazard rather than a valuable gene pool. Finally, and after serious questions in high places, the Brogdale Horticultural Trust was set up in 1991, buying out the land and collections from the Government with both private and local authority funding.

Today the trust operates as a small-scale commercial fruit farm and, with some help from the Government, maintains and promotes the National Fruit Collection which, because of previous planting, specialises in apples and pears. The apple collection includes eating, cooking and cider apples, and the trust supplies propagation material to nurseries as well as private individuals.

Promotional work includes regular tours of the collections. There is a season-long programme of workshops and events for amateurs, at which Chris Godden deals with pruning, grafting and orchard practice (with a helper, Mr Godden can graft 25,000 buds on to rootstocks in six weeks).

There are also demonstration days when the attraction of apples in blossom, in fruit, and in the mouth are presented. The trust also has a postal fruit-naming service,

at £10 a sample — invaluable for people who are not RHS members and cannot use its scheme.

But is it possible to name all the thousands of fruits sent to Brogdale? David Pennell, the director of horticulture, reckons to be able to get extremely close, or to at least narrow a sample down to two or three choices.

Some are obvious. Others are almost impossible. Yet others may be simply good seedling apples. "Dr Pennell says, "We can only make a judgment on the sample we receive, and that depends so much on the vigour of the tree. Old trees often carry untypically small fruit."

Dr Pennell regards most of the old varieties in the collection as perfectly acceptable garden apples, and would like to see more grown on a commercial scale. "They are nearly all easier to grow than a Cox, after all," he says, and is not willing to see the EU regulations on size blamed for the loss of old varieties in commerce: the apples have only to be at or above a certain

size "typical for the variety", he explains. More important to growers are a high yield from young trees and a good demand for the variety. So "Ashmead's Colonel", for instance, will only ever produce 70 per cent of the volume of crop produced by a Cox. But to a gardener, volume is rarely significant. It is more important to have early and late varieties to avoid a glut, a range of flavours, and good clean stock on manageable sized trees. All of this is possible with old varieties on modern stocks.

At Pembroke in Herefordshire, the family firm of Dunkerton's Cider cannot get enough of the old varieties of cider apple to press. The firm presses 20 different varieties in an average season, and can make a single-variety pressing from as little as half a ton.

The value of the old varieties is not just in single variety sales but in

blending. The firm is always on the look-out at cottage orchards for "Collington Big Bitters" and the very acidic "Foxwhelp". Meanwhile, the firm is planting new orchards of "Sheep's Nose", and "White Norman" valued for its heavy tannin. For Dunkerton is convinced that there are plenty of small old orchards remaining in Herefordshire, but that many of the trees are virtually unidentifiable. He has to chase hard and wide to find the fruit he wants, and says: "It does not help that the useful books on cider apples, such as Hogg

**'The big stores are becoming interested in unusual varieties'**

and Bull's *Herefordshire Pomona* of 1876, go to collectors at specialist auctions for £5,000 to £6,000. Most people who have an old orchard cannot afford that."

At least Brogdale can help to keep going some of these useful old varieties. But which old varieties ought a gardener to be planting?

Dr Pennell admits that even today there is a wide choice, albeit from a very few sources. "The tree has to suit the garden and the gardener. I tell everyone to think first about what kinds of apple they like, how far north they live and what the soil is like, and whether they want early or late apples."

It is only after narrowing down the field of choice that you can start to decide between a "Nez Plat" and a "Neid's Drooper".

Full details of the propagation and fruit-naming schemes are available from the Brogdale Horticultural Trust, Brogdale Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8XZ (01795 535286/535462).

The following books are a good source of information on old varieties: *The Book of Apples*, by Joan Morgan and Alison Richards (Ebury Press, £22.50), lists and describes the Brogdale collection. *The Fruit and Vegetable Finder*, £7.99 from The Organic Gardening Catalogue, Coombe Lane House, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 1HY (01832 829933), is in its fifth, and possibly last, edition. Best to snap up any copies you see.

### WEEKEND TIPS

- Divide clumps of autumn-flowering colchicum bulbs before the summer rest is over and flower growth is induced by autumn rain. Single bulbs in grass or borders will soon build up again into clumps.
- Take cuttings of pinks, setting 3in-long shoots around the inside of a pot of sandy compost.
- Pelargoniums at the end of their flowering period may be rested for a few weeks with little water, before starting into growth again.
- Liquid-feed cucumbers, tomatoes and courgettes regularly.
- Ensure that all fruit trees do not lack water.
- Stake brussels sprouts in windy gardens. Spray potatoes for blight.



One of the most beautiful sights of spring, an old apple orchard in full blossom, has become a rare sight. But the Brogdale Trust is encouraging a return to older varieties

## Mini-daffodils at half normal price

THESE miniature replicas of their larger cousins have a place in every garden. All bulbs grow to a height of only 8-12" and are ideal for the front of flower beds, borders or patio tubs and window boxes. They will reward you with a prolific display of flowers in March/April, and if left undisturbed will flower again the following year.

A superb selection from the many varieties of daffodils available have been chosen for Times readers. There is the very dainty Baby Moon, the striking Jack Snipe with white trumpet and yellow petals, the Hawera and Tête à Tête both golden yellow, while Tête à Tête carries 3-5 flowers per stem, through to the multi-flowered Minnow, and finally the charming double-flowered Rip Van Winkle.

Each pack has 20 bulbs and cost between £3.99 and £5.99. Alternatively, treat yourself to one pack of each variety for only £14.97 inc. p&p — giving you 120 bulbs at half the normal price.



### The Times Mini-Daffodils Offer

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to: The Times Mini-Daffodils Offer PT867.

Please write name and address on back of all cheques.  
 Or debit my Access/Visa card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send coupon and remittance to THE TIMES MINI-DAFFODILS OFFER, PO Box 8, Sparkling Lines, PE12 8EL. Allow 21 days for delivery from receipt of order. Other jobs at 1st cost. If despatched please return goods within 14 days of receipt for full refund. No returns for items in transit can be made after 28 days. The Times cannot be held responsible for returned goods not insured. Offer subject to availability. You may see further information on offer and services when you call or visit our website. If you do not wish to participate please tick box.

CODE	PLEASE SEND ME:	QTY	ESTIM. TOTAL
A 2416	20 BABY MOON 8/10cm	23.99	
B 2420	20 HAWERA 8/10cm	23.99	
C 2422	20 JACK SNIPES 8/10cm	25.99	
D 2424	20 MINNOWS 8/10cm	24.99	
E 2426	20 TÊTE À TÊTE 8/10cm	24.99	
F 2428	20 RIP VAN WINKLE 8/10cm	25.99	
G 2430	20 HALF PRICE COLLECTION 120 BULBS	£14.97	
Price includes postage and packing.		TOTAL COST:	

FOR ORDERS PLEASE TELEPHONE (01775) 710000 (24 HOURS)

## Create a little bit of paradise in Battersea

Jane Owen discovers a dramatic taste of the exotic — in the heart of London

WE are sipping coffee in a desert-like area dotted with succulents and the spiky grey forms of agaves, set off by splashes of vivid orange on the surrounding walls and a brightly coloured "Bedouin tent" of purple, green and yellow which gives a little respite from the heat.

It is dramatic and exotic and feels like California or Italy. But we are across the road from Battersea Park, south-west London, in a small garden owned by an Italian thriller writer, Loretta Napoleoni, and her City trader husband, Ron Gerson, who have two sons, Alexander, nine, and Julian, four.

They moved here three years ago and, unusually, started on the garden before redesigning the house. "I did not want an English garden of lots of little flowers," Ms Napoleoni says. "I was brought up in Rome and wanted a subtropical garden, but I am not a gardener and so I had to find someone to do it. This was difficult. I tried lots of people and then I read about a company called Avant Gardener and asked them to look at the garden. James Fraser came, and spent a long time here before coming up with this plan. We love it."

The garden had been typically English, with masses of roses, and a wartime Anderson air-raid shelter at its centre. For £12,000 it has been transformed into a subtropical paradise.

The wind blizzed in from a wide open area to one side of the house, which is next door to the drive and the roof garden of an old people's

home, so trellis was erected and covered with climbers enclosing three sides of the garden — not the usual garden centre trellis, but horizontal wooden battens discreetly nailed to uprights. It is clothed in roses, golden hop, the evergreen clematis *arnaudii*, *Actinidia chinensis*, honey-suckle and the purple-flowered *Solanum crispum*. Gloomy concrete stairs which plunge down into the



Designer James Fraser

defunct air-raid shelter have been painted orange to match the end wall of the house and a side wall, which has a door leading through to next door.

The remaining cavity of the shelter is now the garden shed. Above it, decking steps and walkways lead up several levels to a top deck with a mosaic-painted drinks table and a chair. Halfway up the decking a panel of greeny-blue diamond trellis framed in black makes a balustrade and a focal point above the orange-painted stairwell.

The garden faces south and west, so the main sitting area, at the lowest point of the garden where the family eats al fresco and entertains, is a heathy suntrap. It is floored with huge irregular pieces of dark grey Welsh slate, which show off the low-growing crack fillers: woolly thyme, sedum, sempervivums and the New Zealand ground cover *Raoulia* which is tough enough to walk on.

In the surrounding beds there is a curious mixed planting of euphorbias, iris, bamboo, cow parsley, *Alchemilla mollis* and the small plant *Chamaerops*.

A large bed above the well of the garden and to the side of the deck has a white barked gum tree *Eucalyptus parvifolia*, some maize (which the children pick and eat), the grey-leaved, sweetly scented pineapple broom, purple pom-poms of alliums, bamboos, and great clumps of specialist grasses — bluey-green *Festuca glauca*, *Carex testacea*, *Stipa arundinacea* and *S. gigantea*.

The garden is not yet complete and the next stage involves transforming the dull



Loretta Napoleoni and children in the subtropical garden

side passage into a jungle planting of waxy *Arbutus x andrachnoides* and black bamboo, with grey slate stepping stones. The planting will envelop a large conservatory.

Candles in glass holders are held high by iron spikes and these are supplemented by low-voltage uplights dotted in the beds to highlight plants. A computer-controlled automatic watering system has also been installed.

In line with Ms Napoleoni's brief, the garden has been designed to be so low in maintenance that it needs only four visits a year by Avant Gardener.

Mr Fraser, a New Zealander with a background in subtropical fruit growing who has been landscaping since he arrived in Britain in 1984, says: "I work for a lot of people who have neither the time nor the knowledge to keep things

going, so when I build a garden that is just a beginning. But if a client is involved in the maintenance I may need to come back only twice a year. "I have my own nursery where I grow on a lot of the plants that I import directly from New Zealand. Good planting is a key to good design and that depends on having the right plants and a good soil."

"Usually in London gardens, the soil is exhausted and has to be replaced but, in Loretta Napoleoni's garden, it was high quality. I try to be organic, but I sometimes use a little pesticide if I get a sudden aphid bloom or something," says the man who, on one occasion, spent a morning in Ms Napoleoni's garden squashing caterpillars by hand.

James Fraser, Avant Gardener, 10 Windsor Road, London SW11 3HE (0171-478 4253).



'I am beginning to wonder whether music connects directly with the very young in a way that is lost to us as we get older'

## Enthralled by the power of music

LIFE AND SOUL



GINNY DOUGARY

Luciano Pavarotti has been awarded the same saintly status by the junior males of our household as Ruud Gullit. Ever since the boys saw the Three Tenors on telly some years ago, they have decided that "Pav is cool" and a night at the opera is a treat on a par with an afternoon at Chelsea.

Adoration, as far as the six-year-old is concerned, is most definitely blind. We once made the mistake of referring to his new hero's heft and he went ballistic. "Pavarotti's not fat, you blots," he bellowed, employing one of his more belligerent self-coined profanities. "And, anyway, don't be so fatist," his older brother added sanctimoniously. Their parents, as so often happens these days, in the face of their children monopolising the moral high ground on everything from smoking to pollution, retreated into shamed-faced silence.

A few months ago, my mother — keen to score her first goal for high culture — booked us all into the front row of the Coliseum to see *Madame Butterfly*. The last English-language opera I had seen was Strauss's *Elektra*. I was 19 and it was

not an enjoyable experience. The stage was dominated by a vast pair of scrap metal legs, against which various howling, hysterical women hurled themselves, singing such bathetic lines as "I've got a headache" and "get me a handkerchief". I'm ashamed to say that I giggled all the way through it.

But *Butterfly* is thankfully a far cry from *Elektra*. It was Susan Bullock's performance which got to me — her Cio-San is so sweetly convincing, without the showy "pretend" acting which can make opera rather disengaging — but the children were moved by the whole event. There had been some anxious looks when we took our seats, the boys being the youngest members of the audience by a fair few decades. But as soon as the orchestra struck up, they were entranced and remained so for the rest of the evening.

I am beginning to wonder whether

music connects directly with the very young in a way that is lost to us as we get older. I have watched the boys watching *Young Musician of the Year* or even something quite difficult like Jonathan Miller's *Don Giovanni* on the box, and been struck by their absorption.

Their music teacher is — to use his pupils' highest accolade — "wicked". Here is a groovy young man with multiple earrings, a scary haircut and eco-warrior sensibilities who devotes a great deal of his own time and energy to composing music for school productions.

Like all inspirational teachers, he has opened a door for the children, enabling even the most deprived among them to glimpse something bright and beautiful and enriching.

Our nine-year-old son was dismayed by the news that his favourite teacher was leaving. His own interest in music was sparked during a long hot summer in France with a delightful 15-year-old girl whose grandfather had been Elgar's amanuensis.

It was a scorching afternoon and we had retreated from the sun into the cool

indoors, when we suddenly became aware of a waterfall of music cascading down the corridor. Little had I realised that a piano, had been unable to resist the urge to play. Enchanted by the sound, our son went off to investigate and I watched and listened and bombarded poor Lottie with questions. At some point in the inquisition, he discovered that the lovely sounds she was making had come out of her own head.

Six months of piano lessons hadn't prepared him for this. Being! I was like one of those cartoons when a lightbulb flashes above the character, as our son realised that you didn't have to be some historical figure in a frock-coat and pompadour to compose music. You just had to do it. And do it, aged five — to our astonishment, since

his parents don't have a musical bone between them — he did.

For the past two years, he has been studying music at the Guildhall School. At the end of one term, the director of the prep department asked the parents to stay behind. It had just been announced that local government funding for children whose parents could not afford the sizeable fees was to be withdrawn. She was dismayed by the idea that this centre of musical excellence would now be available only to the privileged few, and took it upon herself to set up a fund so that other children would be given the same opportunity to flourish as ours.

She once taught music to a boy who was so lacking in educational skills that he could barely read or write. Had he not been offered a passport for escape, he would almost certainly have been condemned to the ranks of the unemployed. During his years at Guildhall, his confidence and musicianship soared. He is now a leading member of the Covent Garden orchestra — so could we please give generously? The next time we have a night at the opera, I'll be thinking of him.



Right royal revelations: Using a boat borrowed from Mohamed Al Fayed, Diana, Princess of Wales, has a full and frank conversation with members of the press in St Tropez

## Those rats around the royals

It used to be a scoop for a reporter to get a quote from royalty. Nowadays, as veteran Diana-watchers told Simon Freeman, it has all gone too far

Andrew Morton had planned to spend the week tidying up the final draft of his biography of President Moi, the beleaguered Kenyan leader, which has taken him more than two years to write. But then Diana, Princess of Wales, the woman who turned Morton from a tabloid pundit on the royals into a multi-millionaire celebrity, intervened and he was asked yet again for comment.

In St Tropez on Monday, after zooming around on a jet-ski in a leopard-print swimsuit, she commandeered a speedboat moored off the villa of Mohamed Al Fayed, owner of Harrods, the London store. He has been entertaining the princess and her sons, William and Harry. She steered past the boats manned by the continental paparazzi, whom she does not like, and headed towards a launch, hired by the elite royal specialists of the *The Mirror*, *The Sun* and *Daily Mail* to monitor her activities that day, and gave what, even by her eccentric standards, was an extraordinary press conference.

She gripped the hand-rail and told them they could not take pictures. But that did not matter, since other photographers were snapping away. With the story of how her sons believed she should leave Britain, the next day's papers carried an unusual picture of the working conditions of the royal rat pack.

The boat they had hired for about £1,000 per day was far superior to Diana's, according to Andrew Bray, Editor of *Yachting World*. But with such sensational news under their belts these particular journalists could afford to indulge themselves a little.

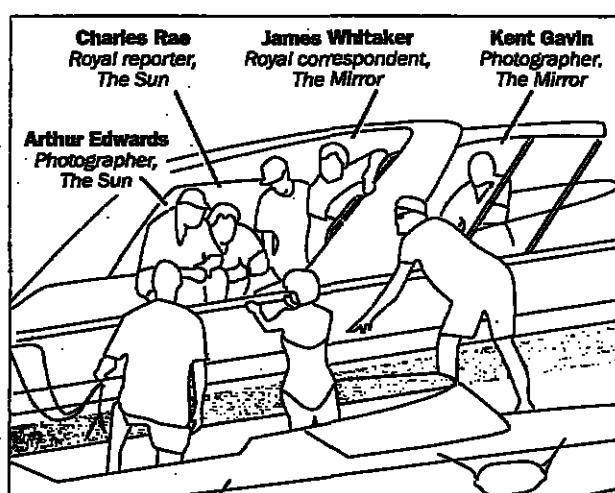
However, Morton, whose book *Diana: Her True Story* has sold about five million copies around the world in 20 languages, does not seem to envy today's royal reporters. "The best days have gone. In the 1980s, when I was covering the royals full-time, the royal specialists on the tabloids were like white knights, going out to do battle every day for their

editors. Every story we wrote made headlines around the world."

Harry Arnold, chief reporter on *The Mirror*, who was *Sun* royal correspondent for 15 years and broke the story of the Prince of Wales's romance with Lady Diana Spencer, agrees: "It's not as much fun as it used to be. In the heyday Charles and Diana had a sense of humour. We used to swap jokes. He called us scum, but we would retort that we were la crème de la scum."

Arnold relates the story of a trip to New Delhi when his photographer Arthur Edwards injured his back. "We had to get to the British High Commission where the Prince of Wales was holding a function. Arthur couldn't move and there were no taxis, so we found a tourist elephant decorated with pastel chalks. A ladder led up to the howdah."

They clambered on board in dinner jackets, but there was no ladder to help them dismount at the High Commission.



"I slid down the trunk and got covered in chalk," Arthur Edwards recounted via the ear but fell on to his back on the ground just as the Prince arrived. "Charles related the incident with relish for days. Royal reporters endured a heavy responsibility because they had to provide regular, circulation-boosting exclusives: they were permitted to make mistakes but, if they were wrong too often, they would be dumped back into the news room, where life meant standing on famous people's doorsteps. The rewards were huge. Stars of the pack — such as Arnold, James

Whitaker, Kent Gavin and Edwards — travelled the world on unlimited expenses. In Nairobi, when the Queen was revisiting Treetops game lodge, Edwards remarked that one of his colleagues' hotel bills resembled a Beach Boys song sheet. "Because it goes: bar, bar, bar, bar, bar, bar."

Despite the sneers of the quality press that they simply made everything up, they were as enterprising and energetic as war correspondents. It was part of the game that the royals dodged and weaved even though, privately, they enjoyed publicity.

The journalists also needed sources: sometimes they paid for information, but often they cultivated insiders carefully, such as the bodyguard who popped into the hotel bar in the evening to brief trusted hacks on what Charles had said, swimming or sightseeing. (A typical nugget would be: "He was furious that she wouldn't smile on the ski

slope. He told her not to be so miserable", thus providing the headline "Cheer up, Di!")

Morton's book, however, changed the royal reporting landscape. He did far more than strip the remains of mystique from royalty; he revealed pain, misery and hypocrisy, which was fascinating but definitely not fun.

There were other repercussions. The quality press, which until then had regarded the young royals as an amusing soap opera, now thought their behaviour raised grave constitutional issues. The standards of reporting also changed irrevocably: Morton had named his sources, which meant others would have to follow suit. And, finally, rivals needed to trump Morton with even more shocking stories.

The veteran reporters in St Tropez this week yearned for the days when they would be hailed as heroes by their editors for crawling through a jungle to witness Charles and Diana sunbathing on a beach; now, they complain, their masters demand Watergate-style revelations.

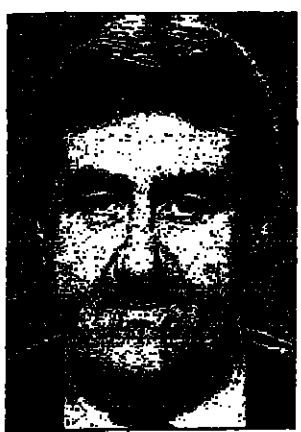
Modern communications have added to the pressures. "In the old days, you went back to the hotel, developed your pictures, and sent them to London. Now you have to transmit them instantly before the freelancers beat you to it," one journalist said.

A photographer, once a feared member of the royal press pack, also mourned for the days when it was a scoop merely to elicit a quote from a royal, warranting a tax-free bonus on expenses. "It's all gone too far now," he said. "You get Charles saying he committed adultery on television, and Diana saying she has had an affair. But the tabloids have to put her on the front page because she still sells papers."

There is still hope, however, in the shape of Prince William, 15. "He looks as if he might turn out to be a cracker. He's a real royal. He doesn't like the press, and isn't going to blub to us like his mother."



Arthur Edwards, *The Sun*: The grand old man of the rat pack is a well-built and ebullient Cockney sparrow. He claims to be Diana's favourite photographer. Because he "minded" the princess during her engagement in 1981, he claims to have taught her how to deal with the press.



Charles Rae, *The Sun*: A huge man and a teetotaler. The product of a Glasgow-Italian ice-cream dynasty, he drinks Diet Coke by the bucket. Truly professional and in constant combat with his reporting colleague Wayne Francis. Diana refers to him as Barney Rubble, the *Flintstones* character.



James Whitaker, *The Mirror*: Known to Diana as the Pat Tomato. Pompous, urbane but likeable. A man who shouts rather than talks, he is an army officer's son from Cheltenham. He has crawled through the bushes at Balmoral, and fixed up the Duchess of York's toe-sucking pictures.



Kent Gavin, *The Mirror*: Known to his friends as Gavers. He is another Cockney, though quieter and more enigmatic than Edwards. They claim to be rivals, but are in private the best of friends, frequently helping each other out. His friends claim he has had many private conversations with Diana.

## Down in the engine room

Ruth Gledhill joins the monks at Ampleforth for Holy Mass



RUTH GLEDHILL

THE PURE, soft Gregorian chant of the *Sanctus* filtered through the arched altar canopy and around the gently domed choir. The novices, young men in their twenties, sat in black cowl and habit as the congregation, mostly visitors, retreatants and local parishioners, drank in the beatific atmosphere of Ampleforth Abbey.

The monks' chanting has been recorded in perpetuity on CD. *Vision of Peace* is about to win them a silver disc, having sold 60,000 since its launch in 1995. But here, the chanting, led by Brother Laurence, was not in aid of record sales but of a weekday Mass, the daily eucharist which underpins the life of the abbey and its school next door.

Ampleforth defies perceived convention in that it has a community of 100 monks, plus a healthy annual influx of young novices. Many work in local parishes or abroad. Of the 40 resident monks, most were in Lourdes where the new Abbot, Fr Timothy, 54, who was elected in March, is spiritual director to pilgrims. But the novices remain in the monastery throughout the summer.

Our celebrant was Fr Paulinus, in his second year in the novitiate and formerly a parish priest in Liverpool. The church was bare with few statues. There was no incense, or Stations of the Cross, and just two strokes of the bell at the Consecration.

essentially simple and seeks out the child-like."

The Catholicism we were enjoying dates back in unbroken line to before the Reformation. The abbey's alumni are at the heart of the British establishment. Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, was formerly abbot here. Famous old boys include Frank Muir, Piers Paul Read, Lord Nolan and Philip Lawrence.

It is no coincidence that the Rule of St Benedict, on which the monks model their lives, is today being adapted by some multinational companies as the latest modern management formula. Ampleforth is an example of how the ancient Benedictine model of community life, one based on spiritual values, can give rise to a thriving, vital and profitable entity.

The school, founded in 1812, has about 600 boys pupils. More than 10,000 visitors stay overnight at Ampleforth each year, many on retreats under the spiritual direction of the monks. The abbey is the biggest local employer, with more than 350 lay people working in its two schools, its dairy farm, its 3,000-acre estate and at its Redcar farm youth hostel.

IN A NEW scheme this summer, dozens of boys and girls from northern parishes are staying at Ampleforth, being trained by international coaches across a range of sports. But as Blaise Davies, formerly a member of the community and now in charge of the Redcar hostel, explains, the church is central to the enterprise. "The choir, the Mass, is the engine room," he said. "It puts everything into context. From here, the monks go into the parishes, the community, the school. The prayer feeds and sustains it."

Mass over, the monks filed into the privacy of the cloisters. The wheels were turning and soon everyone would be hard at work. By the end of that day I was 250 miles away, surrounded by traffic fumes, tall buildings and noise. But staying with me still, but barely detectable, were the unmistakable strains of the *Agnus Dei*.

● Ampleforth Abbey, York. 1064-EN (01343 766765).

FR PAULINUS said the "grace" and prayed for "purity and strength" as we prepared to celebrate. We confessed our sins, and prayed that we might follow the example of St Bonaventure, the 13th-century Franciscan whose feast day it was. Brother Columba, who paints icons in the traditional Orthodox style, read from Exodus and Brother Kentigern read from Matthew. Fr Paulinus preached. "The miracles of Jesus invited faith, but very often they provoked the opposite." He asked why this gift was rejected. "Our hearts are very complex and easily deceived. Faith is

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ A five-star guide ★

ABBOT: The Right Rev Timothy Wright

ARCHITECTURE: Gothic style by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. ★★★★★

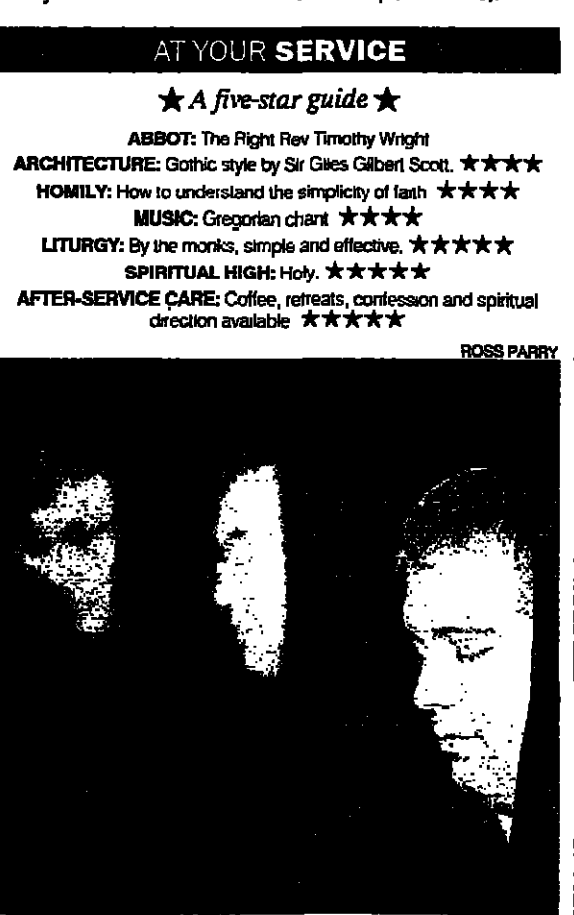
HOMILY: How to understand the simplicity of faith. ★★★★★

MUSIC: Gregorian chant. ★★★★★

LITURGY: By the monks, simple and effective. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Holy. ★★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee, retreats, confession and spiritual direction available. ★★★★★



Ampleforth Abbey: Monks at prayer during Mass



# Florence Lavender found that estate agents' prices and professionalism can vary wildly

ROY ELLSWORTH

## Is your home valued right?

It is easy and fashionable to sound off about estate agents. After all, they play an elaborate game. They set themselves up as experts in in-depth knowledge of the local market, but the bottom line is that they do not know what your house is worth.

Nonetheless, they authoritatively produce a specific price or suggest a £5,000-wide band, based not only on their perception of what your home will fetch, but also on their particular approach to making valuations.

They could quote a higher guide price, hoping to appeal to your greed. They could aim low, on the grounds of a quick, painless sale. Or they could opt for the middle ground, maybe looking for an element of competition to achieve better than the asking price.

So when I recently considered putting my home on the market, I was interested to compare the reactions of four local agents.

I live in a pretty, modest but well turned out one-bedroom flat with a good smattering of original features, part of an unremarkable Victorian conversion in a quiet, leafy corner of a popular part of north London. I paid £70,000 for it three and a half years ago, in the days when buyers could haggle and sellers cleaned the bath and brewed fresh coffee when viewers were expected. It would suit professional twenty-somethings very nicely.

Even on the phone the differences in the agents' responses were detectable, ranging from weary acquiescence to undisguised enthusiasm.

There were some similarities. All the agents' standard fees were 2 per cent inclusive of advertising, though one said he'd be prepared to talk about it if he was instructed, and another was so keen to take on the job that he dropped to 1.75 per cent as soon as I raised the subject. And all admired the flat — "lovely

### HOW THE AGENTS MEASURED UP

	A	B	C	D
Price quoted	£90-95,000	£100,000	£110,000	£85-89,950 ("at a pinch" later £95K)
Strategy	no ads, a few calls	"we'll find the best buyer"	get the punters through	anything for an easy life
Attitude	not motivated	keen as mustard	quietly confident	out of his depth
Fee	2%	2% "but we'll talk"	2% "we'll get the price up"	2% "OK 1.75% then"

high ceilings, wonderful outlook, all those Victorian features... there'll be no problem finding a buyer," they enthused. But a buyer in how long? And at what price? Agent A marched round, with barely a glance at my rather smart bathroom, and made no notes. Did I have any idea what price I wanted for the place, she inquired. No, I said, that was why I had asked her over. She quoted an unhesitating £90,000-£95,000.

When I asked about marketing plans, she said that wouldn't be necessary. It was difficult to say how long the sale would take; better that I concentrate on finding something I wanted to buy first. Could she interest me in details of a couple of places round the corner?

Agent B was the model of a seriously besuited estate agent. What a wonderful flat, he cooed, what a tremendous bathroom. It would go on at £100,000, though he anticipated offers between £95,000 and £105,000.

This was a professional act, energetic, heavy on the importance of strategic marketing, touchingly enthusiastic. I was promised "a comprehensive marketing strategy". "I could find a buyer in a week," he said, "but I'd rather take the time to do it properly.

And that means taking a view on the strength of the bidders." He left me feeling as though my flat was worth a couple of million, but also vaguely uneasy that I was being conned.

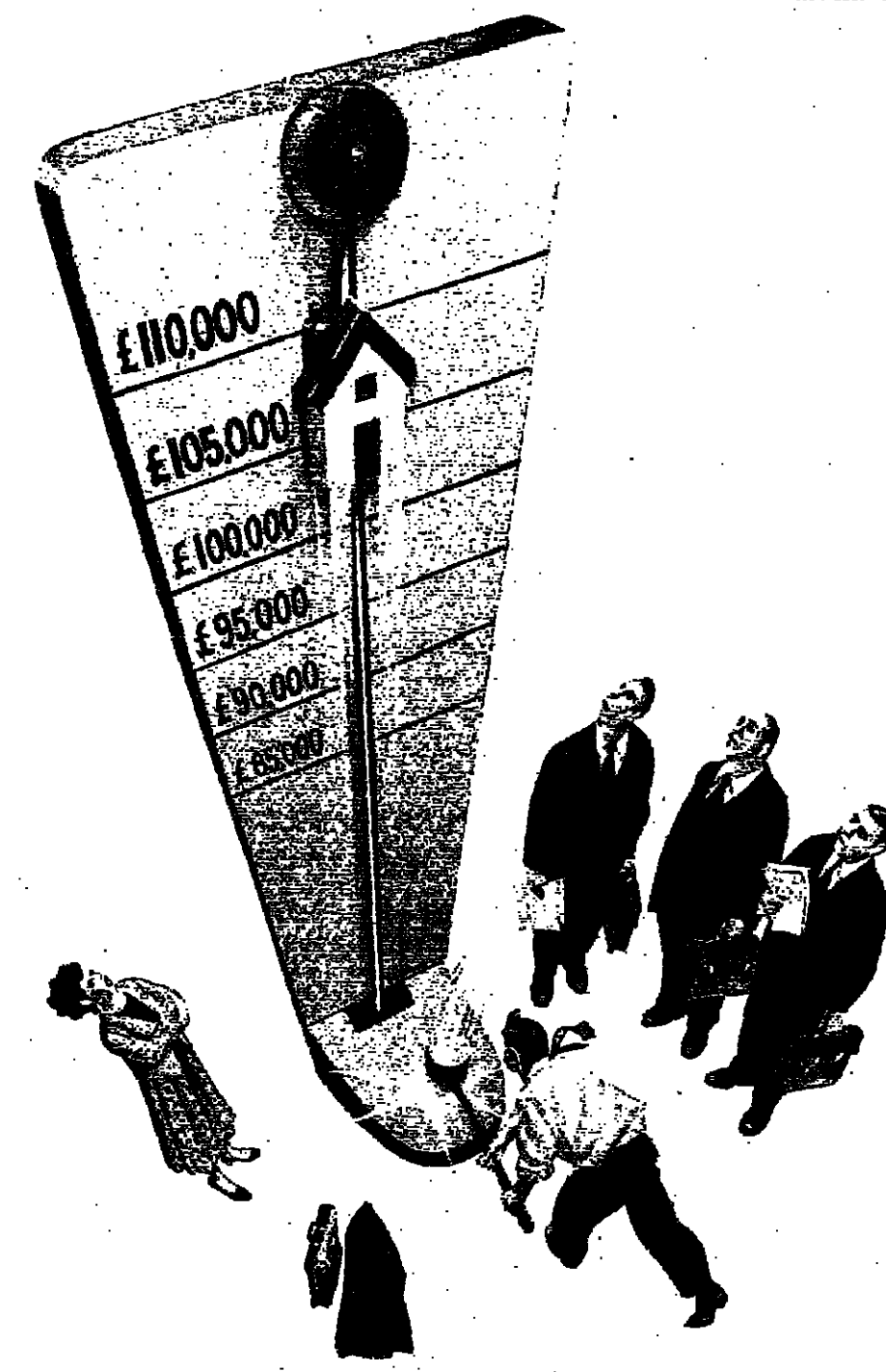
In comparison, Agent C came across as a refreshingly regular bloke-next-door. "It's a nice flat," he said, "but the most important element of any property is its location — and this is a nice street in an extremely popular area."

So? "I'd put it on at £110,000. There's so little about and the market is strong." The flipside of an extra few thousand would be the time: "Four to six weeks to get the right number of people through."

By the time the fourth agent arrived, I was feeling pretty cocky. "It's immaculate," he said, after measuring, scribbling and opening things with a single-mindedness shown by none of the others. "£85,000. Or perhaps £89,950 at a pinch."

Not a flicker of surprise crossed my face. I asked usually about marketing and was regaled with the titles of various publications. "This flat's so nice it'll sell to the first person coming round," explained Agent D.

What about getting a few more through and having them fight over it? "I'd prefer to get just one offer, and I can do that with the first person I bring round because we make a point of knowing our clients' needs." Funny, I'd thought I was his client; but my needs for £100,000-plus appeared to be going unrecognised at this point.



With valuations varying by £25,000 and philosophies ranging from laissez-faire to deeply inflationary, I was bemused. Financial rationale, coupled with the belief that these people ought to be doing some hard work for their cut of the proceeds, limited the choice to the two highest quotes, from agents B and C.

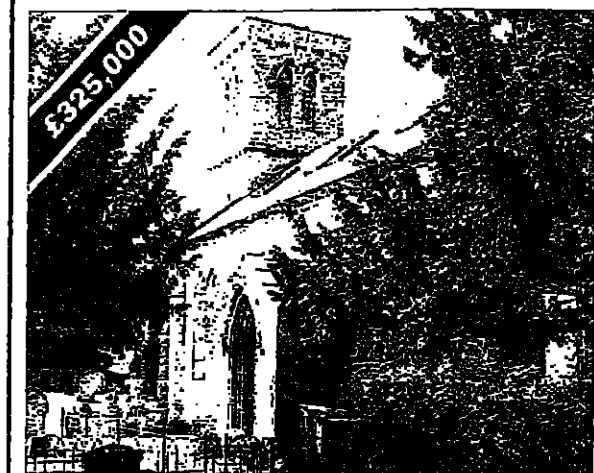
Should I succumb to my greed and the casual charm of bloke Agent C, and run with the highest price with the hope of an eventual bite, but the risk of a long, slow campaign?

Or should I give in to the shiny hype and professionalism of Agent B, on the grounds that his valuation policy would reflect the real market value of the flat? Or should I just count my blessings and stay put in my desirable little piece of real estate?

Postscript: The week after Agent D had visited, I received a letter of confirmation from him — pretty standard practice, except that this one quoted a price of £95,000, which was £5,000-£10,000 higher than the figure he cited in our discussion. I had mentioned to him during his visit that his was the lowest guide price I had been given, and that the highest was some £20,000-£25,000 higher; food for a little retrospective readjustment?

### FOR SALE

#### CHURCHES AND CHAPELS



**GLoucestershire**  
The Old Church, Aston Magna, near Moreton-in-Marsh. Converted early English-style Grade II listed Cotswold village church, with garden and paddock. Five bedrooms (one with en-suite bathroom), dressing room and en-suite bathroom, a further bathroom, drawing room, dining/family room, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom and utility. Tower with shower-room and bedrooms. Triple garage. About £235,000 (Jackson Stobs & Staff, 01238 840224).



**EAST SUSSEX**  
Former Methodist Church, Main Street, Peasmarsh, near Rye. Former Methodist church with planning consent to convert to a detached three to four-bedroom house, with enclosed courtyard garden and garage. About £55,000 (Phillips & Stubbs, 01797 227338).



**DEVON**  
The Old Chapel, East Portmouth, Salcombe. Former 1930s Methodist chapel with a small garden and parking area, in an unspoilt village overlooking the Salcombe estuary. The present owner has plans to convert the building to a two-storey four-bedroom house with a large store at lower level. The guide price for the completed house is £195,000 (Marchand Pettit, 01548 857588).

CHERYL TAYLOR

#### NORTH OF THE THAMES

**BAKER ST.** 2 bed flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WARRINGHAM** Superb modern detached house, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, double garage, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**RAYWATER** Charming 3 bed Victorian apt, original features, 2 bathrooms, close to station. £70,000. 0171 725 9919

**CHORLEIGH** 2 bed terrace, new shower, 2 bathrooms, close to station. £229,000. 0171 725 9919

**DEVONSHIRE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**EARL ST** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LANCASTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LANCASTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**HAMPSTEAD** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**WIMBORNE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

#### 10 MINS HOLLAND PARK

Detached double-fronted exterior designed house with carriage driveway, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, close to station. £240,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**MANCHESTER** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

#### NORTH OF THE THAMES

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**W2** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

#### CITY & WEST END

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**LUDGATE** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

#### FULHAM

**FULHAM** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**FULHAM** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**FULHAM** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**FULHAM** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**FULHAM** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

**FULHAM** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919

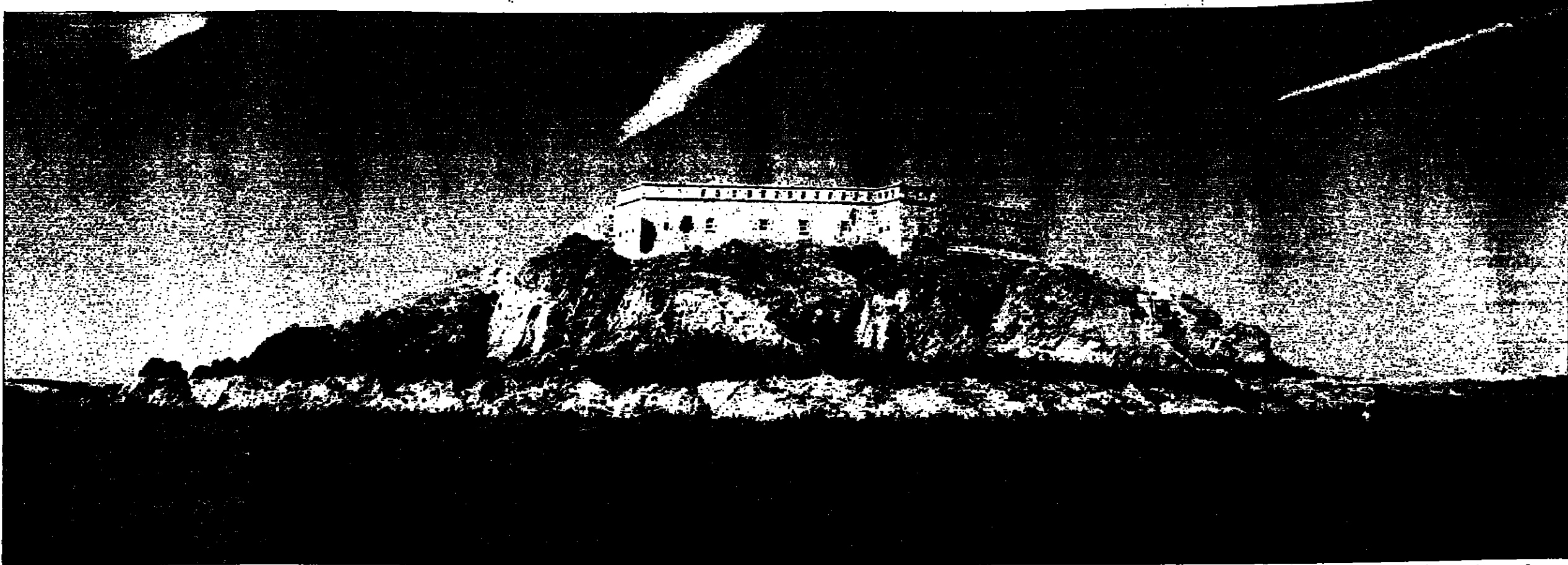
**FULHAM** 2 bed 2 bath flat, new, self-contained, close to station. £195,000. 0171 725 9919







## Erica Wagner visits an island fortress that would provide a serious adventure for a new buyer



Thorne Island's forbidding fortress was once home to soldiers in Queen Victoria's reign and only passed into private hands in 1945. Potential new owners are warned that ferocious winter storms can isolate it and leave seaweed on the roof

Midnight. The sky is black and riveted with stars, the Milky Way looping silver from horizon to horizon. There is no moon. Driving down the narrow, sinuous lane that leads down to West Angle Bay, we pass the Texaco oil refinery, glittering like Oz against the obsidian night, throwing gouts of flame and smoke into the darkness. Then it is hidden behind a hill and there is nothing to guide us as we head down the beach and towards an invisible sea. Everything is very quiet.

"Are you sure this is the right beach?" I ask my companion. "It has to be," he says. He's been here before, knows his way around the place, but all the same he doesn't sound too sure.

And then we hear the thin whine of a motor as Thorne Island's launch approaches to collect us. This is the only way to get to the island, whose two acres are a quarter of a mile out in the bay. At high tide there is a landing stage, but at low tide you do what we did: take off your shoes and socks, wade out into the freezing sea and clamber into an inflatable boat. Thorne Island is not a purchase for the faint of heart.

It doesn't take long to get there, ten minutes over a calm sea, just us, our pilot and a couple who are booked in for a weekend — the island is now run by owner Peter Williamson as a hotel in the summer. We round a spit of land and the island looms over us, its outline picked out by yellow light that spills out of slit-like windows. It looks formidable, secure as Alcatraz, welcoming, one must admit, is not the word that springs to mind.

# The ultimate hideaway



Guests at the entrance (left) looking towards the coast; and Peter Williamson the owner, on the ramparts with Anita Lunn



But once you have climbed the 50 or so steep, slippery stone steps that lead up from the dock (not points from the *Does He Take Sugar?* team), the welcome is warm.

Ushered into an enormous, vaulted sitting room that once housed soldiers, we were revived with food and drink. Nearly 40ft long and washed with pink and white paint, the room was enlivened by a fine fire in the grate.

Although this was July, the fire was very welcome. Winter brings waves that crash over the island, depositing seaweed on the fort's roof. Winter habitation would mean in-

stalling central heating, an amenity the fort does not currently provide. Central cooling is more like it.

Thorne Island, though described as a Napoleonic fort, was in fact built in 1854, a good 33 years after Boney perished on his own island prison. It was owned by the Ministry of Defence until 1945, when it was sold to its first private owner for £50; now the asking price is £275,000. Mr Williamson has owned it for six years, and besides replumbing and rewiring the place, has installed a whirlpool bath, a

sauna and, in the courtyard where soldiers once drilled, a volleyball court. A giant chessboard painted on the ramparts reminded me just how dreadful I am at the game.

Off the comfortable sitting room, there is a little bar, a games room and a dining room, both large and serviceable and the room that served as a cookhouse when the place was built is still in use as the kitchen.

The only trouble with its size, said Anita Lunn, who was serving the guests that weekend, is that you cover a lot of ground in a day's work... Turn left as you come through

the fort's great wood and iron doors and you find the guest accommodation. A room the size of the lounge has been split into eight bedrooms (there is another, larger one, where the guard house once was), each named after one of the seabirds whose morning arguments ensured we rose with the sun. They are spartan, as is the shower and toilet room at the end of the long corridor, and far away from the sitting room's roaring fire a pervasive damp becomes more evident.

A prospective owner should be warned that repainting the entire interior of the fort is an

### FORTRESS OF THE WEEK

Thorne Island, Angle, Pembrokeshire, Dyfed  
 ● Price: about £275,000  
 ● Setting: ¼ mile out into Milford Haven bay, Pembrokeshire nine miles; M4 motorway 50 miles. There is a slow, daily service from Paddington Station.  
 ● Shopping: don't forget to make a list when you venture to Pembrokeshire's shops; think how annoyed you'll be when you realise you forgot the milk and have to wade up the beach again. Gulls' eggs, in season, can be found on the ramparts.  
 ● Entertainment: make your own, the old-fashioned way. Long storm-bound evenings could doubtless be whiled away with games of charades and Truth or Dare. But don't even think about running or jumping on the ramparts — it is a long way down to the rocks below.



The fort's Jolly Roger

that the island is a paradise for tanker spotters; Mr Williamson probably got a better look than he would have liked at the *Sea Empress* when she ran aground here last year.

Guests come to sail, dive and windsurf. There are dolphins and whales in these waters. The nearby islands of Skomer and Skokholm are bird sanctuaries.

Without doubt this is a beautiful location despite the refinery, but there is no getting away from the fact that Her Majesty's Government did not build Thorne Island as a resort, and its forbidding solidity could never really be overcome. Knock it down and start again? Not a possibility, for it is Grade II listed — and even if you were able, I imagine that aerial bombing would do only minor damage. If you buy Thorne Island you are stuck with what is described in the literature as a "romantic Napoleonic fort" — work that one out, if you can.

The sun was blazing on the sea when we left. Trousers rolled, shoes in hand, we leapt from the boat into the shallows and made our way up West Angle beach, feeling as if we had had a great adventure.

But nothing compared to the adventure that would follow the purchase of Thorne Island.

● Agents: Knight Frank (01432 273067)

### PROPERTY PROFILE: LINCOLNSHIRE

A weekly look at the property market around Britain

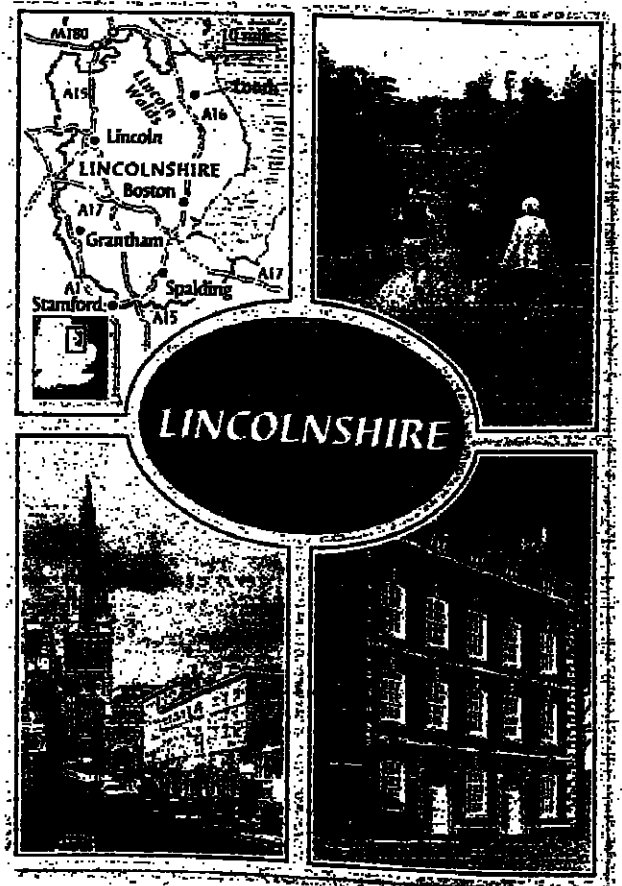
Attractions: Commuters now flocking to villages around Grantham and Stamford would disagree with Henry VIII. He described the county as "one of the most brutal and bestial of the whole realm", although his view was coloured by the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536, when local peasants rebelled against his religious reforms. The Wolds to the north are raved about by those in the know, while the Georgian town of Stamford, the setting for the BBC's adaptation of George Eliot's *Middlemarch*, pulls the crowds. Grantham to King's Cross in under an hour is a big lure, while the A1 provides links to major routes.

The market rising slowly, according to Strutt & Parker, with nothing like the dramatic price increases of the South East, and neighbouring Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. Savills in Lincoln quotes rises of 5 per cent over the last year for prime properties. The market fell by between 30 per cent and 40 per cent in the recession, according to Longstaff in Spalding. Expect to pay: prices are 15-20 per cent higher in the south of the county than in the agricultural north, according to Savills. Humberts reckons a three-bedroom cottage would go for £90,000 to £130,000; a five-bedroom farmhouse without land for £175,000 to £225,000, while a small manor house would cost from £250,000. Clegg Kennedy Drew in Stamford says it could sell any number of Georgian family houses within 15 miles of Stamford, while Stacks Relocation is house-hunting for second home buyers, or commuters, who can find nothing in the Home Counties or nearby Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.

Significant sales: the sale of Fulbeck Hall, in Fulbeck, near Grantham, was something of an occasion this spring. Savills sold the William and Mary house for close to the £450,000 guide price, a successful attempt to tap into the boom in the South East. Outlook: generally good. Clegg Kennedy Drew reckons it is a county no longer beyond the commuting frontier.

AMANDA LOOSE

● Next Saturday's property profile: Worcestershire



## Taking steps to restore a front path

Take a walk along any street of Victorian terraced houses and you are likely to see some front steps and paths that still have the original geometric tiles. These small tiles were laid in contrasting colours to create a simple, effective pattern.

Victorian developers were keenly aware that the first impression of a property was important and that a decoratively tiled path and steps added a feeling of grandeur. They also knew the steps — to the front door were an important social tool, because they ensured the housewife would always be standing above the milkman or tradesmen when she opened her front door.

Geometric patterned tiles were originally used to decorate churches, monasteries

Joyce Blake explains how to recreate traditional tile patterns

and the homes of the aristocracy. In the 1860s, with the advent of new technology, they became cheaper to produce and more widely available. During the Victorian period they became increasingly popular for indoor and outdoor use, because they were practical, decorative and relatively inexpensive.

Sadly, many Victorian paths have deteriorated and been replaced with concrete or

covered with asphalt. To restore the traditional tiling can be expensive but it is possible to achieve a good finish without spending a fortune.

When calculating the cost it is worth remembering that well-laid tiling lasts for 100 years or more.

Jane Green has recently finished renovating the front of her house in Belsize Park, north London. She says: "My steps still had the original black and white tiles, which were in good condition, but the front path had to be renewed. I wanted the new path to be in keeping with the house and to blend in with the old steps. I did a lot of research and took pictures of similar houses in the area that still had the original paths."

"Armed with my photos and one of the old tiles, I went to several salvage yards and reproduction tile shops, but still couldn't find any tiles with the right shade and texture.

Eventually, I went to a local tile shop and found some large modern tiles that were a perfect colour match with the originals. My tiler cut them into smaller squares and, when laid, they looked great."

Before tiling it is important to check the condition of the path and steps. If the path is in good repair, with just a few tiles missing or cracked, it is possible to have suitable replacements made.

The Encastic Tile Company can produce traditional tiles, using a photograph, that will blend with the existing path. You can order a single tile, but expect to pay considerably more for these than for tiles bought in a shop.

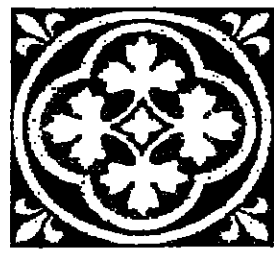
If the path is damaged it is best to have a new concrete base laid, because this will



Jane Green renewed her front path with modern tiles that matched the original tiled steps

### FACT FILE

■ The Encastic Tile Company, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire TF8 7AW (01952 884747); traditional tiles to match an existing path.  
 ■ Salvo, Ford Woodhouse, Beverick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland TD15 2QF (01668 216494); lists salvage yards (information pack £5.75).  
 ■ Original Style (01392 474058); catalogue and nearest stockists of reproduction Victorian tiles (pictured above).  
 ■ Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society (01743 236127); information on restoring your tiling in period style.



yards in your area, which often stock reclaimed tiles, contact Salvo, which compiles regional guides to salvage yards (see box).

Modern tiles are a cheaper option and can be used to good effect. As Ms Green discovered, it is possible to buy new ceramic tiles and have them cut into small shapes. Most tile shops stock a range of tiles that have been made from traditional materials that would look authentic outside a Victorian house.

There is no doubt that a well-tiled front path and steps can give a house a real facelift. Ms Green says: "I am extremely happy with my finished project. The newly tiled steps and path are in keeping with the style of our property and please me each time I walk in and out of the house."

"I hope the tiles remain there for another hundred years and that future owners of the house will appreciate the effect as much as I have."

Ends 31st July

# Sale

ROCHE BOBOIS PARIS

STOCKING AVAILABLE  
 WE WILL BE OPEN ON SATURDAY BEFORE THE SALE  
 10-11 AM - 12-1 PM - 2-4 PM - 5-7 PM - 8-10 PM  
 12-1 PM - 2-4 PM - 5-7 PM - 8-10 PM  
 12-1 PM - 2-4 PM - 5-7 PM - 8-10 PM

مكتبة الأصل

WHEN YOU'RE UP AT 30,000 FEE YOUR MESSAGE SERVICE IS UP AND RUNNING.



# The Norman conquests

**Petanque may have caught on in Britain, but Jill Parkin sees the French hand out an annual thrashing**



The Cuckmere Valley Petanque Club has been playing La Boule Dieppoise home and away since 1993, but without a victory in sight

I was the biggest glass of Pernod I had ever been given. But Christian Henry would not take "non" for an answer. It could have been worse than grey Saturday morning. It could have been a Scotch egg.

La Boule Dieppoise, a team of 20 stout Normans, had crossed the Channel to Newhaven for another conquest, intent on thrashing the English at the French national game of boules, or petanque.

After the duty-free shop on the ferry, M Henry and his merry men had visited the local Sainsbury's to stock up on tea, bacon and Scotch eggs. Rather surprising, but perhaps they thought the Scotch bit was something else. "We always get thrashed," said Jeffrey Hernu, leader of the Cuckmere Valley Petanque Club, fluent French speaker and sometime postwar aide de camp to Montgomery.

"Perhaps, you should have a little water with that?" A cry went up from the club pavilion. "Here's Topper." In came Christopher Ann, owner of the English Wine Centre, near Alfriston in East Sussex, with several carafes of punch. M Henry pursued me with a little water for the Pernod. Mr Hernu gave me a glass of punch and the sun came out. Or it seemed to, anyhow.

The Cuckmere club has a permanent pitch, or piste as petanque players call it, at the wine centre. With its pavilion and well-kept courts, this is the Wimbledon of the game. In France, boules is played on any patch of sandy ground, often under the plane trees in the village square.

It's catching on in Britain, especially in Kent and Sussex, where a few pubs advertise it along with their beer gardens on the signs outside. There is even a British Petanque Association.

"Come and have a go," said Jean Foster, a Cuckmere member. A few Anglo-French friendships were being played before lunch. The idea is to get your boules as near as possible to

the jack, and bomb the opposition boules out of the way without hitting your own.

The French, the acknowledged masters, looked relaxed in style and girth. There couldn't be much to it. But petanque is harder than it looks. The boules are held with the palm downwards and then tossed. They weigh more than 700g each — I would have done considerably better with a Scotch egg.

"Good line," Mrs Foster said. It was tactical of her not to mention the length. The English side were the cream of South Coast retired folk — well-heeled and slightly batty but very good losers. "It was 10-18 last year," Mr Hernu said. "I'd like to narrow the gap this year."

Over lunch in Topper's barn, I tried to find out why the English side played, but I could only diagnose eccentricity. "We're one of the largest clubs," Mrs Foster said. "But we're the least serious." A good thing too. No club with a car for its reputation would expose itself to this every year. Cuckmere has been doing it since 1993 — at home and away — with not a victory in sight.

Over an English wine called Red Rabbit, M Henry and his second in command, Pierre Landais, kept an eye on one of their younger members. Was he diluting his Pernod with Red Rabbit, I wondered?

"In France it's bad luck to break a glass," M Landais said. "He has broken three. Perhaps he thinks he is in Russia." Good grief. Vodka? The cups stood ready outside the

club pavilion — one at least twice the size of the other. "That's the losers' cup," Mr Hernu explained. "I thought we should have it — for effort."

"Four efforts!" Jean-Louis Serra, the tallest member of the French team, translated for the benefit of a team-mate. He laughed the sort of French laugh Harold probably heard just before the arrow.

Then the challenge match between the teams began. "Now," said player Tom Woods, "c'est sérieux. No holds barred."

Sérieux indeed. Gauloise on lip, a Frenchman — and they're nearly all men — plays petanque in earnest. Two boules close to the jack? Perhaps you and I would take a squint at it and agree one way or the other. Not the French. They whip out a tape measure. "Centimetres or inches?" I asked Mr Hernu. "Millimetres," he replied. The English team looked cool and smiled a lot. They kept wandering off-piste and asking what the latest score was in the Test match. The French didn't smile until they were well ahead.

"It's a social occasion. Just friendly competition," M Serra said, wiping his boules with a bar towel. Is that boules tampering? "Hardly. It's a whitewash," said a Cuckmere member, adding hopefully to a Frenchman: "Un blanc l'avance, n'est-ce pas?" The Frenchman smiled. "They're being very polite about it," said Bruce Allen, a retired engineer, "but basically they think we're rubbish."

It was all over. The Normans had conquered by 22 games to six. And that was with three broken glasses against them. They received the smaller winners' cup, and a philosophical Mr Hernu accepted the huge losers' trophy "pour l'effort". "Will you ever be beaten?" I asked M Serra. "Next year," interrupted a Cuckmere member, exhibiting the sort of masochism known only to English sportsmen. M Serra smiled graciously. "We will play with an 'handicap'," he said.

## Christian Dymond on the drug-free ancient Chinese alternative way to treat ailments in animals

### Pet ills get the needle

Tom, a ten-and-a-half-year-old cocker spaniel, was a most accommodating patient. He placed his hind legs on the table, his front legs on his owner's shoulder and thus standing, gazing quietly around the room, waited for acupuncture to begin.

Vet Eric Nelson unwrapped a sterilised stainless steel needle, located a point on the dog's shoulder, placed the needle inside a narrow plastic tube and, holding one end against the spaniel's shoulder, tapped the needle into the dog's skin with his finger.

There was not a flinch on Tom's face, so Mr Nelson found another point on the shoulder and tapped the next needle in. Another two needles were placed at the base of Tom's spine, one went in close by and two more were put into the back of his legs.

"This is really no different from treating a human being," Mr Nelson says. "Basically, I am stimulating the nerves by putting needles into areas which control the energy passing through the underlying body organs."

Traditional Chinese medicine holds that life force energies or "chi" flows through the body — human or animal — along well-defined meridians or channels. It says that where energy does not flow normally, ill health can occur.

Acupuncturists aim to restore health by inserting needles at appropriate sites, known as acupuncture points, on the affected meridians and so release the energy. The points are those places in the skin where it is easiest to access a nerve and muscle junction. What is known as the animal's bladder channel, for instance, (which starts at the inner corner of the eye and goes to the little toe of the hind foot) has 67 points.

"What we are trying to say is that modern scientific discovery has demonstrated that acupuncture works in various ways, including the production by the body of chemicals which deaden pain," says John Nicol, president of the Association of British Veterinary Acupuncturists (ABVA).

The two needles placed at the base of Tom's spine, to the left and right of the lumbar



Vet Eric Nelson treats one of his canine charges, Vandal, with acupuncture needles

vertebrae, were on a point called "bladder 23". This was to stimulate the adrenal cortex which produces natural cortisone. The two on the dog's shoulder at acupuncture point "large intestine 16" were to help relieve pain.

This was Tom's fourth visit to Mr Nelson over the past 12 or so weeks. A few months ago his owner, Pat Hyde, had noticed the dog pulling up his right front leg whenever he walked over stony ground. Sometimes he would lick his

paw as if it might help ease the pain. Arthritis was eventually diagnosed and cortisone tablets were prescribed by a vet.

Ms Hyde says: "I wasn't very happy about Tom taking the tablets in case of any long-term side-effects so I started making inquiries about alternative medicine. The vet then got in touch with Mr Nelson. The treatment is helping Tom a lot. He no longer pulls up his foot on hard ground, he

walks quicker and more comfortably and he gets down stairs easier as well," she says.

Mr Nelson is one of 100 veterinary acupuncturists in the country. Every Tuesday and Thursday at the Hadrian Veterinary Group in Hexham, Northumberland, Mr Nelson treats a variety of ailments including arthritis, allergies, heart conditions, bruises, constipation and pain. Treatment costs £10 for about 20 minutes. Dogs are his main patients but he has seen cats and rabbits as

**FACT FILE**

- Hadrian Veterinary Group: 01434 502703.
- Association of British Veterinary Acupuncturists: 01483 573199.
- British Acupuncture Council: 0181-964 0222.
- Veterinary Acupuncture. Ancient Art to Modern Medicine, edited by Alan Schoen, £89, published by Times Mirror International Publishers.

well and treated cows, horses, sheep and pigs on farms.

He generally gives three or four treatments over a period of weeks to "stabilise" the animal's problem and then might see them every three or four months after that.

Another of his patients is a nine-year-old alsatian called Rona. The dog's spinal cord has narrowed because of increased calcification and a number of the nerves supplying her hind legs have been trapped. Mr Nelson hopes to stabilise her condition with electro-acupuncture, where a small electric pulse is sent through the needles and down the spine, stimulating the pinched nerves.

"I favour acupuncture for some ailments because there are no dangerous side-effects," Mr Nelson says.

**Q** My rabbit has a discharge from his eyes. I've heard this happens because a rabbit's tear duct is U-shaped so tends to overflow. Should I stop worrying or take him to the vet?

**A** Rabbits' tear ducts are not highly efficient and a slight increase in tear production leads to an overflow. But there is no discharge from healthy eyes, so see your vet. It is possible there is some infection. "Snuffles", caused by a bacterium called *Pasteurella*, affects rabbits and early treatment can prevent serious trouble.

**Q** In January, I got a four-year-old cross bred bitch from Battersea Dogs' Home. She's been well

**ADOPT ME**

**ELLIE** is an eight-year-old tan greyhound who lost one of her front legs in a road accident. She is coping well on three legs and is ready to go to a new home. She is a quiet, affectionate dog and would suit a family with children over 12 who can give her the care she needs. Contact Wood Green Animal Shelters, King's Bush Farm, London Road, Godmanchester, Cambs (01480 830014).

**Ellie needs a lot of care**

TEL: 0171 680 6122

## ANIMALS & ACCESSORIES

FAX: 0171 782 7799

<p><b>CATS</b></p> <p>LOOKING FOR that special kitten? Call Catz for the best prices. 01772 244444.</p>	<p><b>DOGS</b></p> <p>SMITHS R/W KC reg. insured. Quality breeders, pure bred dogs, good homes, pure bred dogs, good homes, pure bred dogs, good homes. 0113 260 0160.</p>	<p><b>RIDING HOLIDAYS</b></p> <p>THE COMPLETE Guide dog for the holiday. 100,000 words. The definitive work. Beautifully illustrated. 212,500 words. 100,000 words. 01272 744385 The Weekend.</p>	<p><b>LOST PETS</b></p> <p>LOST YOUR PET or found some? Call us. 01628 252-482. Nationwide on 01628 252-482.</p>	<p><b>CASTLE CASTLE</b></p> <p>CASTLE CASTLE. 100,000 words. The definitive work. Beautifully illustrated. 212,500 words. 100,000 words. 01272 744385 The Weekend.</p>	<p><b>CHARITIES</b></p> <p>THE QUARANTINE MUST GO! (with your help, it will - and soon)</p>
<p><b>YOU CAN HELP US PREVENT CRUELTY TO HORSES!</b></p> <p>ADA COLE. 01772 244444.</p>	<p><b>WOODLANDS</b></p> <p>PONY TREKKING &amp; RIDING STABLES. 01786 584404.</p>	<p><b>ANDALUZ ADVENTURE</b></p> <p>Costa de la Luz in SW Spain. 01935 817567.</p>	<p><b>DARTMOOR</b></p> <p>East Dart Hotel. 01822 800213.</p>	<p><b>CRIBBING</b></p> <p>Relax and enjoy long treks around the beautiful, remote lake of Cribbing. 01628 252-482.</p>	<p><b>QUARANTINE MUST GO!</b></p> <p>The Quarantine Abolition Fighting Fund (QUAFF), with its 2,000 members and supporters, has thoroughly researched the legal position and made preparations to challenge Britain's cruel, out of date, and scientifically unsound quarantine laws by Judicial Review. In Britain's High Court.</p>



## SHOPAROUND

TO ADVERTISE  
CALL: 0171 680 6860  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

## FABULOUS NEW PATENTED SYSTEM

For fast and astonishingly easy to assemble fitted wardrobes  
A WARDROBE ERECTED IN MINUTES FROM FLATPACK

For the man with few DIY skills. An ingenious system of sliding panels enables you to fit up to ceiling heights of 12 feet or more. Full range of dressing tables etc.

## SUPERB QUALITY - AGGRESSIVELY LOW PRICES

Design specialists for men that convert into a bedroom in minutes. UK agents for luxurious solid wood fitted furniture and wall-beds.  
NEW PRODUCT LAUNCH DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE NOW  
Details, brochures, advice, Tel: 0181 330 2230  
Richmond Luxury Fitted Wardrobes Ltd.

## Stairlift Rentals.

Call us now on freefone  
0800 19 19 19  
For a free no obligation quote.

- Next day installation available nationwide.
- Direct from the manufacturer.
- Rent or buy.
- New or reconditioned.



## Let Yourself Go!

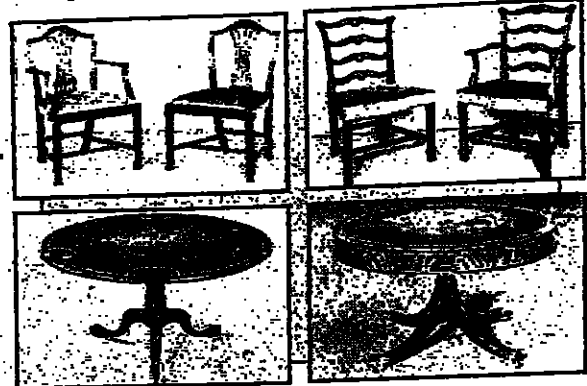
The Erotic Print Society's limited editions of rare classic and modern passionate art are hardly inhibited! For a thrilling introduction send for the 30pp lavishly illustrated colour catalogue now!  
Send £500 cheque (to EPS) or Mastercard/VISA details to:  
EPS (Dept TW21)  
PO Box 10645  
London SW10 9ZT  
Tel: 0171 351 6851, Fax: 0171 344 8999  
SEXUALLY EXPLICIT - SCENE: WE CAN ONLY DELIVER TO PURCHASER

The Erotic Print Society

## Recreating the period. Perfectly.



At William Tillman our craftsmen lovingly create modern masterpieces that reproduce the finest examples of English 18th and 19th century furniture to perfection. Call now and let us introduce you to quality that cannot be surpassed anywhere.



## WILLIAM TILLMAN

30% DISCOUNT UNTIL END OF AUGUST

30 St James's Street, London SW1A 1HB.  
Telephone: 0171 839 2500 Fax: 0171 930 810614-24 Church Lane, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8LT  
Telephone: 01732 833278 Fax: 01732 894439

In the Finest Bespoke Tradition, introducing the...

## Classic Plus Trouser

West End Quality Tailoring now available at less than wholesale prices...

Before paying £45, £55 even £75 a pair! Why not inspect these superb trousers under our no-quibble money back guarantee... we know you won't be disappointed.

We took our top trouser specification to our best tailors. Their brief was to produce the most comfortable cool summer trousers, equally ideal for business or leisure. We were so pleased with the results that we committed a full 2 months of their total production in return for super low prices. We have passed these savings on to you. Machine washable Polycotton fabric keeps a crisp crease all day. The unique clip &amp; button front high rise waistband is so comfortable. 2 side and 1 buttoned rear pocket with 18-19" plain bottoms. Belt loops and a tough zip fly. COLOURS: Fawn, Grey or Navy. INSIDE LEG: 27, 29, 31 &amp; 33". WAIST SIZES: 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 &amp; 52". (Please note, there are NO EXTRA CHARGES for the Bigger Man) Despatch normally within 7 days. All come with the full Jolliman Guarantee

## JOLLIMAN JOLLIMAN LIMITED (DEPT 41F29)

18 Brighton Road, Worthing, Sussex BN11 3ED

Please send me 2 pairs of CLASSIC PLUS QUALITY TROUSERS (under money back guarantee) for £24.98 with NOT A PENNY MORE TO PAY.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POST CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose cheque/PO for £ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to Jolliman

or debit my Access/Visa card. Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POST CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

Callers Welcome at JOLLIMAN LTD (DEPT 41F29) 18 BRIGHTON RD, WORTHING, SUSSEX BN11 3ED

## Finest Montecristi Roll-Up Panama



## THE GENUINE PANAMA HAT COMPANY

The genuine hand-woven Montecristi superfine roll-up Panama with carrying case. Protects you from the sun's harmful rays. Perfect for travelling. Sizes 6 3/4 to 7 1/2 (head circumference 53 to 61cm). Reduced from £59.95.

## SALE

For 48hr Despatch Call: 0171 610 9393

Or write to: The Genuine Panama Hat Company, Unit 7, The Talina Centre, Bagley Lane, London SW6 2BW. Fax: 0171 371 7011

Please specify if you do not want to be sent details of other offers.

## SUMMER SALE NOW ON

Parker Knoll, Cintique, Ercol, G-Plan, Minty Chairs &amp; Settees

## TAILORED COVERS

To fit by design - not by stretching. Tailored to the precise specifications of your furniture.

In fine fabrics meeting strict Fire and Safety Regulations. Choose from linens, prints, tapestries, machine washable velvets &amp; damasks.

Cushion interiors also available.

HUGE RANGE OF FABRICS &amp; DESIGNS TO CHOOSE FROM

## RE-UPHOLSTERY

Restore your furniture to its former glory. Our expert craftsmen will lighten loose frames, repolish wood, replace webs/springs as required and ALL foam with combustion modified foam before re-upholstering in your chosen fabric.

(24 Hours) 0181-680 4750

Please send me details of Tailored Covers ☐ Re-upholstery ☐ (please tick)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

The make of my furniture is: \_\_\_\_\_

The name/model no. of my furniture is (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

The Lympian Limited (1993), 43 Imperial Way, Croydon CR9 4LE

## Lyn-Plan

When you want it done properly

Following a fall someone is lying unconscious and cannot summon help, but it is only minutes away...

The Automatic Fall Alarm System (FIDO) consists of a pager-style PUP unit which you wear and a remote receiver in the home of a neighbour (or yourself) up to 100 yards away. When you suffer a heavy fall and remain lying down the PUP unit automatically sends a radio alarm signal to the receiver. A very loud alarm signal is heard which tells your neighbour that you are lying injured and need immediate help. The PUP also has a manual alarm button if you need to summon help at other times.

The FIDO system requires no setting-up and is available for £229 (inc VAT)

FIDO system available for hire at £15.49 per week (inc VAT)

FIDO system available for hire at £15.49 per week (inc VAT)

FIDO system available for hire at £15.49 per week (inc VAT)

FIDO system available for hire at £15.49 per week (inc VAT)

FIDO system available for hire at £15.49 per week (inc VAT)

## The benefits of softer water

without the use of costly chemicals, filters and salt.

Do you recognise the visual symptoms of hardwater, &amp; lime-scale? The consequences are replacing household appliances, plumbing and hot water cylinders

## THE SOLUTION IS

## Water-King

## Electronic Water Softener

that retains healthy minerals and is scientifically proven to produce softer water

REMOVES EXISTING LIMESCALE AND DE-SCALES YOUR PLUMBING

EASY DIY INSTALLATION - NO MAINTENANCE REQUIRED

REMOVES SCALE ON BATHS, SINKS AND LAUNDRY BOWLS

STOPS FURRING OF KETTLES AND SHOWER HEADS

SOFTER DRINKABLE WATER

NO SEPARATE HARD WATER TAP

LOW RUNNING COSTS - LESS THAN 2p PER DAY

HEALTHY MINERALS RETAINED

The minerals present in hard water are essential to humans and animals. Studies have indicated that high levels of calcium in drinking water ward off heart attacks, while people living in soft water areas seem more prone to them.

Water-King is a fully computerised water softener that removes existing limescale and prevents the formation of new scale. WITHOUT THE USE OF CHEMICALS OR SALTS AND WITHOUT REMOVING CALCIUM AND HEALTHY MINERALS FROM THE WATER.

## WATER-KING REALLY WORKS

In fact, it is the only computerised electronic water treatment system that has been tested by independent laboratories and PROVEN TO PRODUCE SOFTER WATER.

## TEST WATER-KING FOR 100 DAYS

WATER-KING ELECTRONIC WATER SOFTENERS Start at less than £100 and are likely to pay for themselves in 100 days.

Test a Water-King in your home for 100 days under the terms of our Money Back Guarantee.

5 YEARS MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY against faulty workmanship. Manufactured under a quality Management system registered to ISO9001 certificate number 95/5280.

## OVER 35,000 IN USE WORLDWIDE

## FREEPOST COUPON TODAY - NO STAMP NECESSARY

YES! Please send my FREE Water-King information pack and testing kit

Name Mr/Ms/Ms: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

POST TO: WATER-KING, (Dept TW21) FREEPOST 02188, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4YU

Or write to: WATER-KING (Dept TW21) FREEPOST, 02188, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4YU

## We Make Sofa's and Sofa Beds

See your Sofas and Chairs being made by Craftsmen and Women.

Choose your Sofa or Chair and Fabric. Leave the rest to us.

Made to Measure.

Vast choice of fabric including Broad naves, Sanderson, Monkwell, Osborne, Liberty and many others.

Open 7 days.

Lecting, Contract and Interior Designers Welcome.

Re-Upholstery, Curtains and Drives Seta?

Certainly!

We will beat any other price of a comparable quality

Call the FACTORY SHOP at Poedstyle Ltd.

Unit 1, Bayford Street, Mare Street, Hackney, London E8 3SE (Nr Well St.)

Tel: 0181 533 0915 Fax: 0181 985 2553

OPEN BANK HOLIDAY

DID YOU KNOW THAT

JOHNNIE WALKER

MAKES GREAT SWIMWEAR?

IF YOU'RE HEADING FOR THE BEST BEACHES THIS SUMMER... BE SEEN IN THE BEST SWIMWEAR

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

Sofa through summer in a stylish swimwear. Johnnie Walker's swimwear is made from the finest materials and is designed to keep you cool and comfortable.

## THE CAST IRON EMPORIUM

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

CAST IRON COOKING EQUIPMENT

## WORLD FAMOUS

THE ORIGINAL

JUNGLE

SCYTHE

CLEAR BRAMBLES

UNDERGROWTH,

GRASS, WEEDS,

DOCKS &amp; NETTLES

WITHOUT BACK

BREAKING

STOOPING

ONLY £16.95

+ P&amp;P

MILLIONS SOLD

WORLD WIDE

STAINLESS STEEL

HAND TEMPERED

STEEL BLADE

Safely clears

brambles, hedges

and all other

obstacles up to

10cm thick

and 10cm high

without back

breaking

stooping

Safely clears

brambles, hedges

and all other

obstacles up to

10cm thick

and 10cm high

without back

breaking

stooping

Safely clears

brambles, hedges

and all other

obstacles up to

10cm thick

and 10cm high

without back

breaking

stooping

## KEEP UNWANTED ANIMALS OUT OF YOUR GARDEN...

WITH THE PIONEERING NEW

ULTRASONIC ANIMAL CHASER

Unwanted animals can prove a nuisance, damaging young shrubs and fouling lawns. Even fences offer little protection. Now the Ultrasonic Animal Chaser offers a revolutionary new solution!

This clever British invention produces blasts of inaudible ultrasound which only cats and dogs can hear, gives a no-go area of up to 2,000 sq. ft. in a 50ft, 90° fan shaped area. Unlike other ultrasonic repellents, the Animal Chaser produces a constantly varying frequency of 19-25 MHz, so pests cannot get used to the blast. Used by professional horticulturalists, Animal Chaser is guaranteed to protect gardens, aviaries, and fish ponds from damage or fouling - 24 hours per day. Animal Chaser is fully weather resistant, and maintenance free, is easily fixed to a wall, post or tree, and comes complete with 12v mains adaptor and 25ft extension cord. Low power consumption gives round the clock protection for 6p per week. 5 year guarantee. Only £29.95+£2.95 p&amp;p

30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

24 HOUR HOTLINE ~ 01325 469181

Tensor Marketing Ltd, Yarm Road Ind. Est.,

Darlinton, Co Durham DL1 4XX

Darlinton, Co Durham DL1 4XX

Darlinton, Co Durham DL1 4XX

Darlinton, Co Durham DL1 4XX

Darlinton, Co Durham DL1 4XX

Darlinton, Co Durham DL1 4XX

Darlinton, Co Durham DL1 4XX

Darlinton, Co Durham DL1 4XX

Darlinton, Co Durham DL1 4XX

Darlinton, Co Durham DL1 4XX



July 19 1997

After foxhunting, the protesters' next target will be their "right to roam" the countryside. Fine. But first let's get the facts straight

# Ramblers are on the wrong track

DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

In the heat of the battle over foxhunting, let us not forget another little rural skirmish about to break out. This fight will be over a loose and rambling concept called "the right to roam", which figured in the Labour Party manifesto. It sounds good, but does not bear close examination.

I once thought I would love to roam free, like the birds in the sky, like a gull across the oceans. So, to that beguiling end, I bought a beautiful leather rucksack in Switzerland. It was a work of art, made of the softest leather, and it clung to my back like a baby koala to its mother. Now, with my alpenstock in hand, I was ready to roam: I would scale the heights, yodel down the valleys, whistle I love to go a wandering along the mountain tracks... *Joli de ree*. Swiss mountain holidays get you that way.

But if anyone believes that roaming free in Britain is likely to be a similar experience, they are in for a bitter disappointment. In fact, my knapsack has nestled at the back of the cupboard ever since Heathrow, and it will take more than legislation to persuade me to unearth it. I know that the hard-line ramblers see the "right to roam" as a

freedom; the snipping of the fetters of trespass legislation. But for most of us, the idea of roaming is about as appealing as following in the footsteps of a bedraggled stray dog.

Imagine that the right to roam could be bestowed upon you right now, exactly where would you go? From where I sit, in an intensively arable part of Britain, the thought of striding through, or even around, a miserable field of uniform, heartless winter wheat seems about as much fun as strolling in the desert. There is nothing to see; the flora has been beaten into submission by years of chemical application, the fauna has gone to other heavens, or to virtual extinction.

If you live near the forests or moors you might think that they would provide a better terrain to roam. Not necessarily. Commercial forests are bleak places, ancient woodland is bewildering, and the moors are downright dangerous unless you are a near-professional walker. I deliberately paint a gloomy picture to try

to make the point that the total "right to roam" is no great thing to fight for, for other than the hardened few. What most of us want from a country walk is to enjoy the scenery and the exercise, in an atmosphere free of restriction, while doing the least damage to the environment we enjoy.

The first step towards this goal, I believe, would be to sort out the mess of footpaths that criss-cross the countryside: a tangle of tracks spreading like a rampant bramble bush, some of them leading nowhere, some impossible to find, and many of which have completely lost the purpose for which they were originally intended. These make for

glum walks indeed. I know that many local authorities have made great efforts to replace signposts and devise entertaining, circular routes, and have fought battles with reluctant farmers, but the policy has been based on the maintenance of existing paths, and not on devising new ones.

Some see our ancient footpath network as a national treasure to be preserved, but I do not. It is time for a clearout. Many of those I see are just so much lumber: signposts erected because some ancient, hallowed map shows that once upon a time people regularly walked this way, from long-demolished cottages to a long-closed school. But now

the sign points into nowhere and, in order to satisfy those few who demand their "rights" irrespective of whether that particular right is worth having, these unused paths are maintained.

Landowners — those among them who see walkers as a plague of locusts — need not rub their hands with glee and assume that I am on their side. If they do, I must remind them how much public money subsidises their estates these days, and how they owe us some access in return.

Here is a suggestion (and I am open to any better): could we not redraw, on a mile for mile basis? That way, we might end up with better paths, to more interesting places, without any loss to the walker, and, possibly, with great benefit to all sides.

Elected local committees, representing all interests, could agree the routes — and, if necessary, impose them on landowners — and the scope for inven-

tiveness would be unlimited. This plan will take the determination of those who valiantly fought to create the Pennine Way and similar projects, but would it not be better than the present crazy system, which we cling to for no real reason other than that it was once scratched on vellum with a quill pen?

I would not be suggesting such an upheaval if there were no pressure on the countryside to support recreation; but there is. I see no indication that the numbers of "country users" is going to decline. Why shouldn't they walk footpaths which are chosen, maintained and signposted to offer some pleasure? Better than a situation where the right to roam becomes misunderstood, and the hills and dales are littered with lost, bewildered souls trying to get some pleasure out of their new-found freedom. And ending up cut off by the motorway, or mired in an open-air pigsty.

There is not enough countryside for us all to be able to roam wild and free. The Swiss, of course, understood this years ago and designed faultless footpaths. That is one of the reasons that their country is such a pleasure to walk. It is also why they sell more knapsacks.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

# Moving to the country? Beware

Diana Appleyard looked forward to living in deepest countryside, but the reality makes her heart sink

Our old Georgian farmhouse in Oxfordshire is surrounded by fields and spinneys in which there are rabbits and foxes. My children play among the trees in the orchard and feed the horses at the bottom of the garden. Walking the dogs means only having to step out of the back door. And yet living here is driving me out of my mind. When London friends say "You're so lucky", I have to bite my lip. To disillusion them about their fantasy view of the country would be cruel.

It seems our decision to seek rural climes is a popular one. Between 1991 and 1995 more than 24,000 people migrated from town and city into "mixed urban and rural" — that is, the countryside and the more rural suburbs.

Often this movement is precipitated by a change in circumstances, such as starting a family and not wanting children to grow up in smog. Certainly when Fifi Trixibelle came along, Paula Yates and Bob Geldof (her partner then) decided to flee the city and bought an old priory in rural Kent. At the time Yates said she wanted to give her children an old-fashioned childhood, with lots of daisy-chain making and lying in fields of cow parsley.

The writer Susan Hill says she has never regretted leaving the admittedly genteel surroundings of Old Town in Stratford-upon-Avon for her cottage in rural Oxfordshire. Perhaps the most famous rural escapee is the writer Jilly Cooper, who forsook Putney in southwest London for the wilds of Gloucestershire.

As a family, we have lived pretty well everywhere. We've been townies in the heart of Birmingham. We've lived in the semi-rural suburbs near Stratford-upon-Avon. Now we are festering in a sea of green, with nothing to see for miles but the odd tractor on the skyline. When once I could look out of the window on to people, cars and things happening, now I look out of the window on to mud. Acres and acres of it.

Our family life started in an area of Birmingham spoiled only by its proximity to Balsall Heath, most famous for its prostitutes. I was regularly propositioned by men leering out of Datsuns. My husband was mugged on his second day here while out jogging.

Yet there were pluses to living in the city. There was a wonderful crèche for my two-year-old daughter. At her playgroup she had Asian, African, Chinese and even Vietnamese friends. She learnt to count in Punjabi. Theatres, restaurants and cinemas were on our doorstep.

But after a year my husband in particular became fed up. Three times someone tried to break into the house. "Enough



Diana and Ross Appleyard with their daughters: "Pleasure now is a walk with the dogs running ahead, finding pheasants"

is enough," he said, and we began house-hunting in the countryside around Stratford-upon-Avon.

We ended up buying a barn on the outskirts of the beautiful small town of Alcester. This seemed like real countryside. We breathed in fresh, clean air every morning. The children could see cows from their bedroom window. They went to a small village school which had an old bell on top. We shopped locally and bought Barbour and green wellies, which never got very dirty. The children swam in streams, caught tadpoles and fished for minnows.

Then my husband was offered a job in London and we decided it was time to move towards the Big Smoke. But Birmingham had put us off sufficiently to make us look in the "real" countryside.

We found the old farmhouse one November day. Its windows were rotting, its heating was non-existent and cooking was done on an old, rusting range. But this was the country, and this was a real farmhouse. The first night we all slept in the same bed as the wind howled down the corridors and the windows rattled in their frames.

But we were used to the country. We had the wellies to prove it. Sadly our wellies were no match for the galloping mud. Putting on nice clothes has become pointless because (a) they would only get dirty, and (b) there is nowhere to go. Shopping has become a problem. I load up weekly at Tesco in Buckingham, eight miles away. Inevitably, there are things I run out of. I'll pop down to the local butchers, I think. Wrong. If there's an "r" in the month, it's closed.

Shops round here close every lunchtime at varying times for well over an hour, and when children need picking up from school, every Wednesday, because it's half-day close

road, unable to hear my horn because he has Radio 1 on full blast. All the roads here are covered in twin tracks of foot-high mud, which means swerving about demurely.

My daughters attend a school eight miles from our house. Most of my day seems to be spent speeding backwards and forwards to it, unless, of course, I am behind a tractor. Their friends live up to 15 miles away, and we seem to spend our life in the car. All our friends live hundreds of miles away, and we don't seem able to meet new ones, because there are few like-minded people in the vicinity. A visit to the pub is the pinnacle of our social life. Conversations about seed potatoes and crop rotation have become remarkably interesting.

If anyone talks to me in a shop, I have become pathetically grateful. A trip into

# Say goodbye to a melancholy clown

FEATHER REPORT

IF YOU WANT to see a puffin on your holiday, you will have to set out in the next two weeks. There are plenty to be found in Britain, but by early August they will be streaming away from their colonies to spend the winter out in the cold waters of the Atlantic.

Some of the best places to see them are in the Shetlands and on Orkney, and on St Kilda. There are also large numbers on the Farne Islands and the Isle of May, and in Wales on the islands of Skomer and Skokholm.

They nest in burrows on the cliff-tops, which they dig out with their beaks and sharp toenails, or in crevices on the side of cliffs. No bird is more unmistakable. They are black above and white beneath, and they have extraordinary triangular beaks, which in summer are bright red at the front and blue at the back. They run over the cliff-top grass, bending slightly forward, or stalk along more upright in what ornithologists call "the pelican position".

However, the breeding season is now approaching its end. Puffins normally lay one egg, and many of their solitary offspring have already come out of their burrows in the middle of the night, and sailed down to the sea.

But some young birds are still in the nest, and their parents are flying in regularly with beakfuls of sand-eels to feed them. So if you go to a puffin colony just now, you will find a great many down on the water below the cliffs, and a few still busy on top.

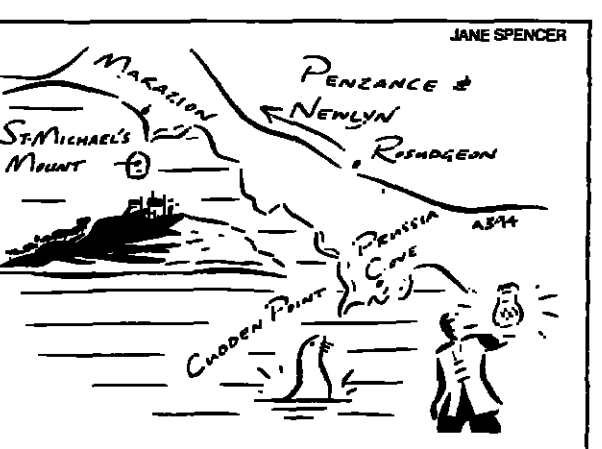
If you get a good view of them, you can see their



Puffins will leave soon

strangely sad or anxious faces — an effect I think of the crushed and distorted look of their eyes. Then they seem like melancholy clowns.

By next month, their colourful beak-plates will be falling off. Their winter beaks will be smaller, though still quite colourful — pale orange in front, and bluish-grey behind. By early August, they will all be swimming about on the water. Their final departure for the distant ocean is like an opera singer's farewell. One morning they are gone, and you think that is goodbye — but the next day they are all back again. So it goes on several times more. But one day they have really gone — and until next spring it is only sharp-eyed observers on sea-going ships who will see their stubby shapes over the water, or riding up and down dauntlessly on the crashing waves.



ON THE SPOT: CORNWALL

**Rural recommendations**

**The place:** Cudden Point, south Cornish coast.

**The view:** I claim it as one of the finest in Britain. Before you the wide, wild sea. To the left, a huge sweep of dramatic cliffs, lush valleys and golden beaches to the Lizard peninsula in the distance. To the right, the broad arc of Marazion Bay, with St Michael's Mount as the jewel in its crown; beyond, Penzance, Newlyn and Mousehole.

**The appeal:** see above. Three generations of my family have taken the same summer holiday house near by for 20 years: it will probably not be long before there's a fourth to share the exhilarating climb up to Cudden Point.

**Historical interest:** every cove here speaks of Cornwall's maritime past. Below the cliffs to the east is Prussia Cove, named after a notorious local smuggler, the "King of Prussia". The wreckers did their deadly work from these beaches. Just below Cudden Point a huge wooden spar has been driven into the cliff top; it came from the *Warspite*, which served in both world wars before losing her tow line in April 1947 while en route to a breaker's yard, and sinking off St Michael's Mount. Behind Cudden Point is an old look-out house, built as a First World War coastal protection station.

**Time to visit:** any time, although the South Cornish Coastal Path can be a bit nose-to-tail in high summer. Try early spring, when the sea boils at the foot of the cliffs and the sheer cliff faces are carpeted with wild pink mesembryanthemums; or early autumn, when seals play in the coves.

**How to get there:** by train to Penzance or by car into Marazion (park near the beach), then strike out east along the coastal footpath (well marked); or by car to Rosudgeon village (on the main Penzance-Helston coast road), then walk down to Prussia Cove and head west.

**OS reference:** Sheet 203 (Land's End and The Lizard), 548275.

**Also near by:** the local pubs are less than picturesque, so take your own picnic — the sea breeze (a quaint local name for howling gale) produces a ferocious hunger.

SALLY BAKER

**TOWN...**

- For: Open all hours • busy social life • multicultural • childcare options • entertainment • close to work and good schools
- Against: Endless crime • pollution • traffic • seediness • children grow up too quickly • money always short

**OR COUNTRY?**

- For: Tranquil • healthy • close to nature • beautiful environment • spacious neighbours • children grow up more slowly • money never short
- Against: Miles from anywhere • endless driving • road delays • shops with erratic hours • no social life • nothing to spend money on • mud

**Closed**















... plus Barbados, the Alps and some stylish hotels with golf attached

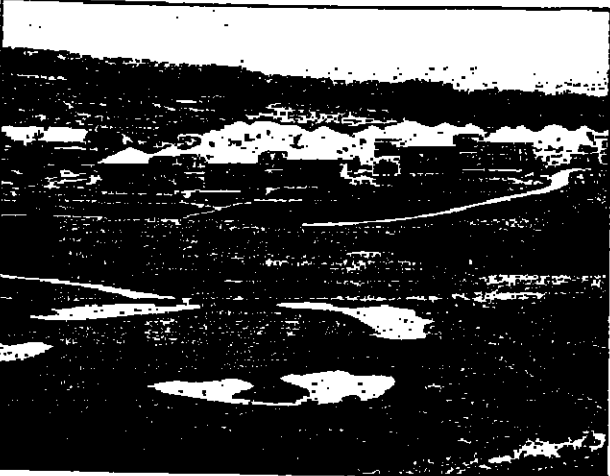
## BARBADOS

SLIDING off for five hours to play golf is not always popular with your partner. But it is easier in Barbados as the perfect climate, famed by balmy trade winds, is the biggest attraction for non-golfers, too. The water sports, deep-sea fishing and idyllic beaches are not far behind, either.

Inevitably, the holiday is beach-based which, while enjoyable, is not enough for addicted golfers. So, each day off, we went to the oasis of the golf course. Designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr, the Royal Westmoreland is reminiscent of the best of British heathland courses with a touch of American trickery, complicated further by the ever-present breezes.

For a change of scenery and an equally difficult challenge, play at the older Sandy Lane Hotel par 72 course. At present it is undergoing an expensive facelift to compete with its

# Paradise — but at a price



Royal Westmoreland has a touch of American trickery



Lining up on the green in Barbados for the winning shot

newer rival, yet it is certainly not easy for the once-a-week hacker.

Among the dos and don'ts of golf in Barbados: do put enough sun block on to protect

your nose and knees and do not play against the legendary Gary Sobers. With a bad hip and wonky eye off a generous handicap of 8, he played the back nine against me in four

under par. As he took the money, he assured me: "I can't putt. If I could, I might have made a good golfer."

In a more profitable encounter, I played a round with Mr

Trent Jones Jr, a man so in love with his job that he could not resist a lyrical hole-by-hole description. The Royal Westmoreland occupies the site of a 480-acre sugar plantation

three-quarters of a mile above the Atlantic, and Trent Jones Jr has used the sandy slopes, coral cliffs and rocky ravines to great effect.

"I've tried to listen to the land and tailored the golf course to nature, rather than create something artificial," he said. "By using the existing features, I've aimed to give players the idea of channelling their ball into the greens."

However, there is one small drawback: Barbados is not cheap in season from December to March. Despite the strain on one's credit cards, I comforted myself with the thought that any taste of paradise always has a price.

NICHOLAS LLOYD

● The Royal Westmoreland (011 346 422 4653) has seven-night rentals from £1,795 for a two-bedroom villa. Flights and transfers not included.

● Caribbean Connection (01234 541131) has seven nights in the Royal Pavilion Hotel including British Airways flights from £1,237 per person.



With so many golf courses now available around the world, many with top-class hotels attached or nearby, holidays with friends or partners are becoming easy to arrange

# Friends are par for the course

At Daytona Beach, 50 miles northeast of Orlando in Florida, free golf is on offer. Hotel tariffs are at an off-season low rate, about £40 a room. The rub is that the offer applies until late September when temperatures climb. But 90F is the peak, the courses are at their best and air-conditioning is standard in the hotels, which overlook the beach.

For information, call 0171-935 7756.

□ OF SIMILAR style is Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, arguably the

world's golf capital with 100 courses, most close to a wide choice of hotels overlooking the beach where après golf delights sate a dedicated hedonist and, because of keen competition, good value is standard.

British Airways Golf Holidays (01293 723131) from £699 per person.

□ THE CHOICE for golfing couples is growing, proving romance and golf are compatible. Stylish hotels are the key and two in Vermont fit the bill. The Equinox Hotel at Manchester and The Inn at Woodstock

## INTERNATIONAL

are renowned and each has a course ranked among Vermont's best. For information, call Vermont Tourism (001 802 828 3237).

□ FOR A short break off the beaten track, golfing groups would enjoy Dublin and Jerez. An incongruous mix, but the golf is of comparable quality, though Dublin has more of it. From Grafton Street you could reach 50 courses within the hour.

CIE Tours (0990 143910) has a golfing brochure to Ireland with prices from £154 for two nights B&B and golf.

□ JEREZ has one course but, like the hotel which overlooks it, Montecastillo is among Spain's finest. Situated off the beaten track about an hour north of Gibraltar, the Jack Nicklaus-designed course will stage the Volvo Masters for the first time in October.

JB Golf (01254 235608) has prices for January from £315 per person for three nights, sharing a twin, including flights and car hire.

ARGUABLY the finest hotel in Majorca, Read's Hotel is near the Santa Maria, 15 minutes north of Palma and convenient for a necklace of courses ringing the capital. The building is an old farmhouse set in acres of gardens with 15 double rooms and six suites.

Read's Hotel (034 7114 0261) from £100 double B&B. Golf can be arranged; green fees about £25.

BARRY WARD

● The author is travel editor of Golf Monthly magazine.

## GOLFING HOLIDAYS FACT FILE

■ Specialists include: UK: Crystal (0181-390 8513). France/Ireland: A Golfing Experience (0181-205 7135). France: Cresta (0161-429 1311). French Golf Holidays (01277 31474). Brittany Ferries Holidays (0990 340369). USA: Destination Golf (0181-691 5151). Tunisia: Panorams (01273 746577). Caribbean: Caribbean Connection (01244 341131). Worldwide: Longshot Golf (01730 268621). British Airways Holidays (01293 723131). Lotus Supertravel Golf (0171-962 9494).

■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: World's Great Golf Courses, by Michael Hobbs (Apple, £8.95); Golf Digest: 4200 Best Places to Stay, (Fodor, £13.99).

# Tee off for the mountains

## THE ALPS

IT WAS Switzerland that began Alpine golf when the European leasured classes created a course near the ski resort of St Moritz in 1893. Now the country has 54 golf courses, 16 of them dating from before the Second World War. The courses exploited the beauty of the mountain scenery though, for ease of construction, they were built on

the flattest ground that could be found — on the plateau at Crans Montana and in the valley at Davos, for instance.

Austria's first course was built in Vienna in 1901 but most of its mountain courses, with the exception of Dellach which dates back to 1927, Kitzbühel's Schloss Kaps (1955), Moosburg (1960) and Seefeld (1968), have come in a burst of more than 60 new courses in the past 20 years. Building a golf course on a



Natural hazard: Alpine cow enjoys the golf at Innsbruck

mountain is risky for the developer. Construction is expensive, the season is short (starting soon after the snows melt in April and only lasting until October) and green fees are limited by what the tourist will pay — somewhere in the region of £20 to £35.

However, ski resorts, rich in money from the winter, will often take the gamble to attract the illusive summer visitors to fill their empty hotel beds. For the golfer, hotel prices are at low season rates and villages that bustle in the winter are natural and uncrowded. Above 1,000 metres the heavy muggy summer air of the valleys becomes fresh and, when the sky is blue, the wind light, the views stunning

and the greens fast, there is nowhere better for golf.

The quality of courses varies. Some are designed not to frustrate the high handicap golfer too much — like the three at Kitzbühel in the Austrian Tyrol or Davos in Switzerland. Others are championship courses such as Zell am See, in Salzburgerland, and Crans Montana where the European Masters is played. Many simply present the golfer with a delightful switch-back up and down the sort of sweeping contours that course architects would die for.

GRAHAM DUFFILL

● Swiss National Tourist Office (0171-734 1921). Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629 0461).

**Sandy Lane**  
BARBADOS

## FESTIVAL of GOLF

Stay at Sandy Lane, take part in a few days of relaxed competition golf and enjoy all the facilities of this famous luxury resort. An ideal holiday for beginners, lady golfers and club golfers alike. 7 nights from £1,475. Flights depart Heathrow 18 October and return 25 October. Extra nights optional from £120 p.p.n. Please call for brochure with full details.

**Elegant Resorts**  
01244 897 999

THE OLD PALACE, CHESTER, CH1 1RB

## SOMAK

The U.K.'s favourite operator to East Africa  
MOMBASA 14nts (24 & 31 Aug 97) from £569  
Also featuring  
LUXOR (25 Jul -29 Aug 97 inc.) from £199  
NILE CRUISE 7nts (25 Jul-29 Aug 97 inc.) from £349  
GOA 14nts (3-31 Oct 97 inc.) from £379

For competitively priced holidays ask your Travel Agent to contact Somak Holidays for our current choice of departure dates.  
**Somak HOLIDAYS**  
ABTA AITO ATOL1350 0181 423 3000

# Les Cross Channel Bargains of '97

Short Break

from  
**£89**  
return

Club Break

from  
**£129**  
return

Economy Return

from  
**£149**

Duty Free

lowest prices guaranteed.

**le Shuttle**

Folkestone ← → Calais  
For reservations call  
**0990 35 35 35**  
or your travel agent.

Le Shuttle guarantees the lowest Duty Free prices across the Channel. If you find an identical Duty Free product for sale cheaper from another cross-Channel operator within twenty-one days from the date you purchased it from Le Shuttle we'll refund the difference. Excludes promotional prices or prices that are conditional upon making other purchases. All claims must be made within twenty-eight days of purchase from Le Shuttle. Prices quoted include car and all passengers and are valid between 10pm and 6am.



Volcanic islands: Apart from their many other pleasures, Hawaii and Iceland enthrall with fiery displays

# Fun with fire and brimstone

It seemed like madness to walk down into the crater of Kilauea Iki, one of the many active volcanoes on the turbulent Big Island of Hawaii, especially when I knew that a few hours away from its wet, sinister mountains the sun was shining and tourists frolicking in lagoons full of brightly coloured fish.

But the slopes of these smouldering giants are draped reassuringly in native rainforest, whose birdsong and trilling of crickets lured me into the pit and on to the crater floor.

It is an intimidating sight — a blackened wasteland, with steam pouring from sulphur-lipped fissures. Underfoot the crust feels brittle and ready to crack. Thick slabs of rock are piled one upon the other as if punched up from below.

When I stood still, heat seared the soles of my shoes. Steam and mist thickened around me, hiding the path.

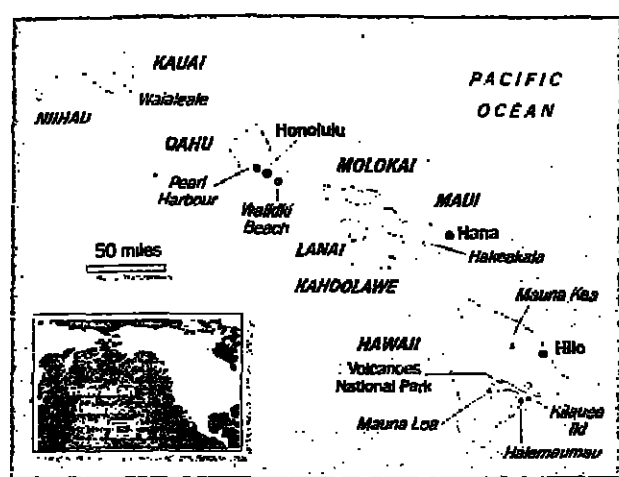
The crater seemed alive with menace. Yet I reached the safety of the other side with something like disappointment — so I turned around and did it all again.

The Volcanoes National Park provides a fascinating break from the more usual pleasures of Hawaii's beaches. Four thousand feet above sea level, it contains the largest active volcano on earth, Mauna Loa, and its innumerable offspring, including the two-mile wide Kilauea caldera, Halemaumau and Kilauea Iki, comparatively a pip-squeak, but still huge.

Mauna Loa stands nearly 14,000ft above the sea and has a surface area that occupies more than half of the Big Island, or Hawaii to give it its proper name. For 150 years it has routinely brought death and destruction to towns and farmlands. Earthquakes shake its snow-covered summit and, since 1983, a vent in Kilauea has been pumping lava seven miles to the sea, creating more island.

Reaching the top of Mauna Loa takes a two-day tramp and climbers need to be prepared for the worst conditions. (Another behemoth, the 10,000ft Haleakala, or the House of the Sun, on the island of Maui, is much more accessible. Parties of cyclists are driven to its summit for a day's downhill ride. It is also possible to camp overnight in its crater and have a clear view of the firmament and, a local hippie told me, the UFOs.)

I spent several hours crossing the main Kilauea caldera which, despite its expanse, is thick with pungent fumes. The path took me over hardened magma to Halemaumau (also reachable from the Rim road), a deep crater within the caldera. Starting into its smoking, sulphurous maw I could not



resist thinking in fire and brimstone clichés: it is truly hellish. Upon its blasted rim were several floral garlands, thrown there to placate the goddess Pele, who is believed to dwell inside.

Such is the enchantment of the volcanoes that I found myself later that day, legs aching, having hiked caldera, lava and devastation trails, almost running in order to reach the summit of an ancient cinder cone, peer into it and get back to the road before nightfall marooned me in a

pitch black wasteland. These lava deserts are eerie and at night the park is desolate — and freezing.

The nearby village of Volcano closes early and has a gloomy air, but in my B&B, an old missionary house, I was treated like family and the village's Kilauea Lodge provided me with the best meal I have eaten in an American state.

Until recently the park's lava flow was the red-hot night-time attraction — a viscous river of fire that could be watched from close range. In February the flow stopped, why or for how long nobody knows. I consoled myself with a long soak in thermally heated ponds and gaped at the stars.

It is wet in the volcanoes park — the nearest city of Hilo boasts the biggest raindrops ever measured. It is wetter still on parts of Kauai, the Garden Island, northernmost in the Hawaii chain and home to a small-scale Grand Canyon and fluted mountains of a preternatural steepness. In fact, its Mount Waialeale is said to be the wettest spot on earth. (These crumbs of land demand superlatives. Another is that they are the most geographically isolated place in the world — 2,500 miles from any land mass.)

And on Maui, mecca for windsurfers, alternative life-stylers and rich golfers, a downpour hit with such ferocity that I thought it would wash my car off the narrow Hana "highway" that winds

around the cliffs above a gorgeous, battered shoreline.

All this precipitation is a far cry from the holiday postcards, but the beach burn need not despair: most of Hawaii is drenched in nothing but sunshine. Besides, the rain brings plenty to be grateful for. The islands are cloaked in verdancy, either as pasture, plantation or, more pleasingly, forest. Native trees, ferns and shrubs grow with primeval luxuriance, illuminated by a burst of colour from orchids, anthuriums, hibiscus, and a thousand other flowering plants. Guava, pineapple, bananas and other fruit grow abundantly, sometimes lying by the road and on trails, and coconuts, mangoes and papaya cost little at roadside stalls.

The rain also feeds waterfalls. A 20-minute meander off the main highway on the Big Island takes you through a tropical forest thick with giant bamboo brought me to a cataract dropping hundreds of feet into the mist.

The regiments of Japanese tourists seen running to follow their tour leader's commands — and most other visitors to Hawaii — miss such out-of-the-way treats. The majority do not leave Oahu.

This island, with 80 per cent of the population, is Hawaii's engine room, powered by the

capital, Honolulu, and the much maligned beachstrip of Waikiki, a hotel jungle that hums with air-conditioning and honeymooners. Its urban humidity is made heavier by swooning guitars, fast food and duty-free perfume.

But for a holiday of sunbathing and shopping, Waikiki is an ideal destination. Prices are reasonable, it is safe, and everything is on tap, including not-so-cheap thrills such as paragliding, submarine trips and boat rides. Palms beckon lazily and there is excellent snorkelling and diving. Good surfing is possible at Waikiki too — for the good surfer.

For this neophyte, boogie boarding offered enough excitement, and more than enough scrapes with the coral reef. I also followed the lifesaver's advice on a beach at the surfing Elysium of the North Shore and stayed out of the bone-crunching waves.

Despite its cars and consumerism, Oahu is friendly and relaxed, but the truly easy-going islands of Kauai, Lanai, Molokai and Maui are only a plane hop away. Each has its own character but all cater to a diversity of holiday styles. (There are 132 islands in all and a new one is on its way: Loihi, at present 3,000ft below the surface of the Pacific, is being thrust up from the hot spot that created the other islands and in a mere 10,000 years will join the chain.)

Volcanoes and ocean are the forces that created Hawaii and it was the Pacific that provided the other great unexpected pleasure of my week's stay: whale watching.

Humpback whales calve and nurse their young in Hawaii's waters from late November to May. On Maui, Kauai and Oahu, whenever I joined the throng of people gazing out to sea, I saw signs of life. Witnessing 40 tons of blubber erupt from the sea, rotate for a look around and crash backwards into the water will stir the blood of the most disge tourist.

DIGBY HILDRETH

## HAWAII FACT FILE

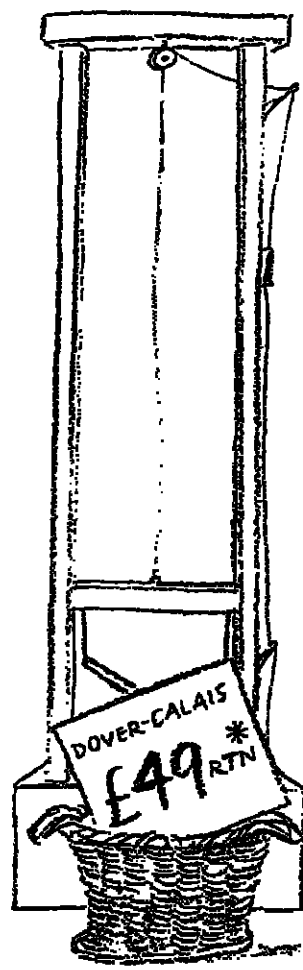
- Air New Zealand (0181-741 2299) flies four days a week from Heathrow to Honolulu from £528. Aloha Airlines bookable through ANZ, offers inter-island airfares for £40 a sector.
- Package deals to the "Neighbour Islands", including flights, first-class hotels and car rentals are worth checking out in Waikiki. Car rental varies between islands but on Maui the author rented a car from Budget for \$13 a day plus tax and insurance (optional).
- Accommodation: My Island B&B at Volcano (001 808 967 7216) from \$50 (£32) a night for two sharing, \$35 a single, plus tax. Royal Grove Hotel, Waikiki (001 808 923 7691) \$57 a double, \$48 a single plus tax.
- Further details from Hawaii Visitors Bureau (0181-941 4009).
- Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 2266) recommends *Hawaiian Archipelago*, by Isabella Bird (Picador, £13); *The Cruise of the Snark*, by Jack London (Kegan Paul, £14.95); *A Little Too Much is Enough*, by Kathleen Tyau (Women's Press, £6.99); *Moon Maui Handbook*, (£9.95); *Rough Guide: Big Island of Hawaii*, (£8.99).



Beyond the sunny beaches, the threatening beauty of a lava flow at Mauna Loa is one of Hawaii's great attractions

Book before  
26th July.

Save over £100  
with our  
Bastille offer.



This year celebrate Bastille Day with SeaFrance. We've cut our fares to save you up to £116.  
Book before the 26th July and travel from Dover to Calais for as little as £49 return off peak or £95 return peak. If you sail with anyone else, on your head be it.

\*Price includes car and up to 9 passengers Dover to Calais standard return off peak. Book before 26th July 1997 quoting BTK1 (for £95 fare please quote BTK1). Outward travel must be completed by 31st August 1997. See your local travel agent for further details.

0990 711711

the difference c'est  
SEAFRANCE

For bookings and information visit our website at <http://www.seafrance.co.uk>

## Grog on the road to Hell

The plate of small white cubes looked like rather dull processed cheese. Nothing had prepared our British palates for the Icelandic delicacy of rotten shark.

A preliminary, disagreeable mouthful left our taste buds jangling. Too late we discovered that the vital part of the feast was a fiery Icelandic liquor called Brennivín, which we should have downed to take the taste away.

It never became clear why Icelanders choose to torture themselves with cubes of shark meat which have been buried in the ground for months to rot. On the other hand, Brennivín had useful warming qualities, which we tested to the full as we stood on the deck of a fishing boat braced against an icy wind.

Unfortunately, the whales which were the object of our boat trip apparently only break surface when it is calm and sunny. To miss such giants of the deep was frustrating, though we had been warned it was early in the season. However, we were soon distracted by being given fishing rods and instruction. In five minutes, several of our party had caught fish large enough for a good supper.

Whales are an important part of north Iceland's wildlife. This, and the lunar landscape



Hot springs at Hveravellir

of volcanic rock, waterfalls, steaming sulphuric earth and belching hot mud pools are the main attractions.

Lake Myvatn lies on the western edge of a huge volcanic zone which bisects north-east Iceland. The lake is overshadowed by a 2,500-year-old black crater neatly striped with snow, but the earth is still seething with energy.

Half way around Myvatn, black volcanic rock suddenly gives way to a field of rocks hissing sulphur-smelling steam and boiling mud pools. Volcanoes still erupt. But our attempts to reach a crater called Hell were foiled by bad weather.

Thick snow proved too much even for a four-wheel drive vehicle. The more intrepid among us set out to walk the rest of the way to Hell — another opportunity to test the warming qualities of the liquor bottle.

SARA MCCONNELL

The author travelled with Travelcete (0181-427 8800), which operates seven-night visits to Iceland, including Reykjavik, the second city of Akureyri, whale watching and Lake Myvatn tours. Prices start at £754 per person.

## Sun, Sea & Save



more than £70 at **Sketchley SuperSavers**

when you buy foreign currency  
& American Express Travellers  
Cheques from NatWest

**NatWest**  
More than just a bank

Registered Office: 41 Lombury, London EC2P 2BP. Registered in England No. 529027.  
Travel money must be collected by 30 September 1997



Wales: White-robed druids prepare for the Bala eisteddfod and, in the south, white cows graze on history

# New tune for land of song

**W**ales is fashionable. After years of "Boy" jokes and chapel-going caricature, the national press has discovered the Taffia — clever, sexy and Welsh — in the person of Ffion Jenkins, the fiancée of William Hague, the leader of the Conservative Party. Who would have expected to see the word *crachach* (elite or posh) in English newsprint?

The timing is excellent: the curious can visit the Royal National Eisteddfod next month and experience Welsh culture (amid some of the most spectacular scenery in Britain) first-hand. This year, it betag the turn of North Wales, the venue is Bala.

Meanwhile, the people of Bala have taken up knitting. This ancient town, on the edge of Lake Bala in the Snowdonia National Park, is usually associated with more energetic activities such as hill-walking, rock-climbing, rafting, wind-surfing, canoeing and abseiling. So why the outbreak of garter stitch? The answer is that the people of Bala have chosen wool as a theme for the local contribution to the festivities.

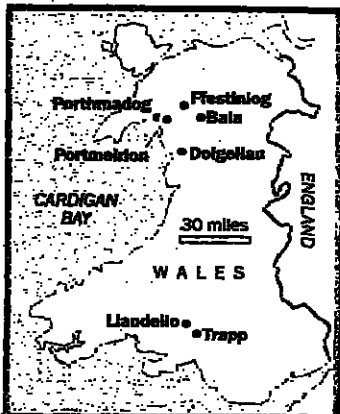
If needles no longer click in the cottages to produce tons of socks as they did 150 years ago, sheep still have a significant presence in the magnificent, alternately lush and rugged, mountainous landscape. An enormous "scarf" has been sewn into a strip long enough to encircle Llyn Tegid (as Lake Bala is known in Welsh), all 11 miles of it. A lake, incidentally, which contains a unique fish, the gwyniad, a survivor of the Ice Age.

Bala is centrally placed for a tour of the sights of Snowdonia even if you don't want to spend more than a day on the eisteddfod *maes*, or field. But, whether you speak Welsh or not, this is an arts festival like no other. The central pavilion holds an audience of about 3,500 for concerts, singing and dancing competitions and the main ceremonies — the crowning and chairing of winning poets and the presentation of the prose medal, before the assembled company of robed Welsh bards, the "Gorsedd".

Performing is important, but writing, especially poetry, is treated with ritual, almost religious, solemnity. "A oes heddwth?" shouts the archdruid to the four corners of the earth "Is there peace?" intones your translator through the ear-



Welsh druids in solemn ceremony at the centuries-old eisteddfod



## BALA FACT FILE

- Royal National Eisteddfod, Bala, Aug 2-9 (01678 521477).
- Maes-y-Neuadd Hotel, Talsarnau (01766 780200): double room, breakfast and dinner from £162 per night.
- Guest houses by Lake Bala: Abercelyn (01678 521109), 15th-century rectory overlooking lake. B&B £18.50-£24.50. Plas Gower (01678 520431), B&B £17.50-£18.50. In Bala town: Plas Coch (01678 520309), B&B £20-£30. Prisiau (01678 520059), B&B under £15.

phones). In the Middle Ages, a bard could win a place at his lord's table, hence the prize chair. This year's has been fashioned out of oak and sports dragons' claws.

Although the first recorded eisteddfod was held in the 12th century, the modern version is a 19th-century invention, complete with a horn of plenty, flowing robes (cloth of gold for the archdruid) and small girls doing a flower dance in the main ceremonies. In recent years, sports events, art exhibitions, a rock tent and stalls selling everything from Welsh honey to Celtic jewellery have caused the temporary township to spread.

Soon, 27 acres just outside Bala will resemble an arty Bedouin encampment, echoing folk tunes, bardic poetry and Welsh pop.

Once there, you can be as active or lazy as you choose. Bala is a renowned watersports centre and Snowdonia offers some ferociously challenging peaks — Snowdon itself and Cader Idris.

You can enjoy the mountains without donning a serious boot, however. Footpaths are clearly marked throughout the national park and the restored steam railway between slate-grey, damply gleaming Blaenau Ffestiniog and the seaside at Porthmadog at the



Around beautiful Lake Bala, in the Snowdonia National Park, visitors can go hill-walking, rock-climbing, rafting, wind-surfing and canoeing

crook of the Lleyn Peninsula, takes you painlessly above the tree-tops, an hour each way.

Every Saturday evening during the summer, the clattering journey becomes a gourmet experience known as "Steam and Cuisine". There are no kitchens aboard, but canapés (including salty, papery fried spinach) and a cold first course (smoked trout mousse with toasted broche in our case) are served on departure from Porthmadog. Half an hour later, a speeding chef from Maes-y-Neuadd Hotel, Talsarnau, near Harlech, delivers a hot main course (we had baked lamb, mushroom and walnut pie) at a halt. Time to "stretch legs" is allowed at Blaenau Ffestiniog (there are no lavatories aboard) and, in the interim, a delicious cold pudding magically appears, followed by coffee as the train descends again to the coast.

Steam enthusiasts tell you everything you didn't know you didn't know about trains.

It is as slick an organisational feat as you would expect of Maes-y-Neuadd. The chef there has an international reputation, but the hotel retains the characteristics of a Welsh farmhouse. There is a prevailing scent of wood fires and comforting baking.

Food and culture-crammed and stiff from sport, you might like to visit the gold mine at Dolgellau. There are no free samples and the workings are wet and icy (water is introduced to prevent the stone-dust disease silicosis in the five remaining miners) but outside is a fairy-tale landscape of waterfalls, rhododendrons, mountain streams and leafy hillsides. No sign remains of the 19th-century gold rush to the wild British west. However, slate is a more significant feature of

the landscape these days. At Llechwedd, you can descend on a hair-raisingly steep railway to tour lumiere caverns to learn about Victorian slate extraction. But the stuff is all over the place, above ground too — sheets lean together into a makeshift pig sty and sharp shards decorate cottage walls. Slate roofs are a planning requirement throughout Snowdonia.

There is nothing greyer than Welsh slate glistening in the rain. In contrast, the fantasy village of Portmeirion on the coast near Porthmadog is a sweetbox full of fondant colours. With its Italianate architecture set above a glorious swath of sand, and its gardens and woods full of rare blooms, this is a splendid place to while away an afternoon. Climb narrow stairways, visit the art gallery and the

bell tower, and identify the flowers featured in the famous Portmeirion pottery (on sale at a price).

The cult television programme *The Prisoner* was filmed here, but the atmosphere is benignly eccentric rather than menacing. You can rent one of the cottages or stay at the beachside hotel, which must be fun, if you don't mind the tramp of a thousand tourist sandals on the cobbles outside your door.

I prefer to get away from it all and ride on the hills watching the vistas slowly changing to the gentle cloy of hool on track. To be honest, my pony bolted, head up, tail flying, at 90mph. One vista after another. I should have soothed it by singing the Welsh national anthem.

I am sure that's what Ffion would have done.

HEATHER NEILL

## Why the bull is king of the castle

**T**he milk-white cattle of Dinefwr appeared as timeless as the soft rain that refreshed the River Tywi as it snaked its way to Carmarthen. The cows that graze the Dinefwr estate are believed to be descended from the same beasts that trudged across Europe with the first wave of migrating Celts. On wet days, visitors can admire these extraordinary animals through the great window of the café of the estate's recently restored Newton House, Welsh lore, white cows and cream of carrot soup go well together.

A few miles away, above the hamlet of Trapp, Carreg Cennen Castle, glowered through the drizzle that swirled round its sheer 300ft-high granite crag. Appearing then disappearing by turn, the great stone mass assumed all manner of spectral shapes. "Welsh castle ruins look their best on days like these," said Bernard Llewellyn, a farmer and broadcaster who owns the prized monument with his wife, Margaret.

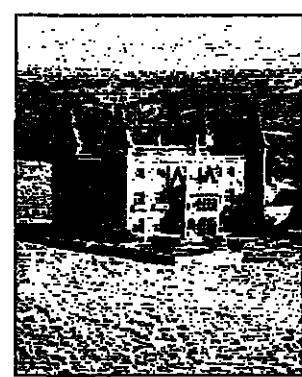
Carreg Cennen and Dinefwr Park, which is owned by the National Trust, are short drives from Llandeilo, a market town that stands high above the Tywi. Its narrow streets and Georgian shop fronts will see out the 20th-

century unscathed and untainted. Even Fanny's Restaurant and tearoom in King Street is pledged to uphold its fine tradition of puddings and desserts. For travellers who hanker after continuity, it is here in abundance near the end of the M4.

In Dinefwr's magnificent Capability Brown landscapes, hundreds of old anthills survive as stately homes of the insect world. From larger, man-made knolls, Brown's handsome beeches punch the Dyfed sky. Most of the trees are between 100 and 250 years old. Dinefwr's oaks grow to 300 years or more. Such venerable trees were held in reverence by the Welsh druids, as were the white cattle.

White Park cattle, as they became known, assumed such national importance that Winston Churchill had cows and bulls shipped to Texas with the aim of safeguarding the stock for all time. The American herd is now among the 400 White Parks that survive worldwide, says Brian Hancock, the warden at Dinefwr. "During the war, the family of Lord Dynevor were said to have considered it expedient to paint the cattle green to try to camouflage them."

White Parks have grazed their way through some im-



Newton House, Dinefwr Park, and Albion the bull

portant episodes of Welsh history. For example, the great prince Rhys Ap Gruffydd, an ancestor of Henry Tudor and sponsor of the first recorded eisteddfod in 1176, established his base in the "forest land of Tywi" in 1197. Dinefwr Castle, the ruins of which dominate the wooded bluff across the Tywi, was henceforth held to be the seat of the Kingdom of Deheubarth. The dynasty retained power until 1532 when one of its number was executed for allegedly plotting against Henry VIII. Rehabilitated under the Stuarts, the family built the Newton House mansion in 1660.

It was Dinefwr's gorgeous rolling landscapes that won the acclaim of artists and



writers. "It is a complete round of woods, shrubberies, hills, dales and sweeps," wrote a commentator in 1794. With more than 3,100 trees and shrubs, the park is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Successive barons remodelled the house, but not with the same universal approval. The addition of four turrets proved particularly contentious. A visiting vicar in 1803 thought the house "... a great disgrace to the scenery that surrounds it". As if driven by the sins of his fathers, the 4th Baron outrageously reworked the property into its present Gothic style.

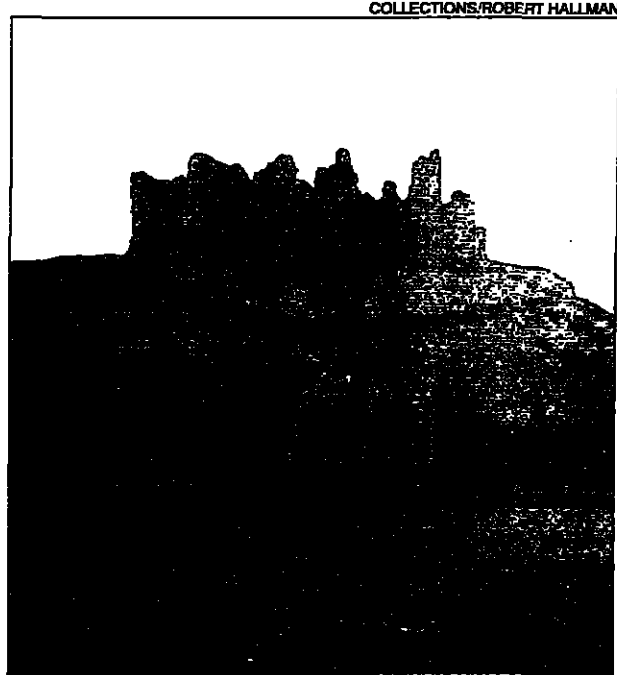
In the 1970s, death duties forced the sale of what was the

greatest of the South Wales estates. With the dispersal of the White Park herd, local people mourned the loss of 1,000 years of history. Thankfully, the exile was short-lived. The National Trust acquired the estate, including the 100-acre deer park, in 1986 and bought the dilapidated Newton House in 1990. Two years later came the return of three calf-bearing white cows. "It gave the estate a living feel again," Mr Hancock says.

At Carreg Cennen, Bernard and Margaret Llewellyn also maintain a herd of White Parks. Here they graze a 200-acre farmstead with a range of other rare cattle and sheep. Through the drizzle, an invisible flock of Soay sheep called from the castle slopes like restless Iron Age spirits.

The splendid 60-mile views of the Black Mountains and beyond could only be imagined. "It really must have been a wonderful place for a hill fort because you can see so much around it," Mr Llewellyn says. "But it was also a stupid place to have a medieval castle, because there was nothing here to defend."

The castle did become involved in Owain Glendwr's fight for Welsh independence in the early 15th century when its walls were "... thrown



Carreg Cennen Castle, near Llandeilo, Dyfed

down by rebels". At the end of the Wars of the Roses, 500 labourers were hired to smash the fortress to pieces. Carreg Cennen has remained one of the principality's best-loved ruins ever since.

The former cave dwelling that runs for 60 metres beneath the castle retains an equally magic hold. The story goes that inside its walls the Welsh warrior Owain of the Red Hand lies waiting to rise against the English.

COLLECTIONS/ROBERT HALLMAN

## FACT FILE

- The author travelled with the Wales Tourist Board, Brunel House, 2 Fizzalan Road, Cardiff CF2 1UY (01222 499900).
- Where to stay in Llandeilo: The Cawdor Arms Hotel and Restaurant (01558 823500); twin/double rooms at £50 a night. Weekend break, with dinner, £115 per person.
- Fanny's Restaurant, Llandeilo (01558 823500). Two-course lunch £7-£8. Open 11am-5pm, and Thursdays, three-course Sunday lunch £10.50. Closed Mon.
- Carreg Cennen Castle, Tiry-Castell Farm, Trapp, (01558 823902).
- Newton House, Dinefwr Park, is open to the public Thurs-Mon, 11am-5pm, Mar 27-Nov 2, £2.00, children £1.30.

the vista of the River Tywi as it meandered away into the mist. The warrior princes may be long gone from Dinefwr, but the present residents will still be there, probably till the cows come home.

BRIAN PEDLEY

## A Special Announcement

### A Summer Visit to Southern Africa

including 6 nights at the 5-star deluxe Meikles Hotel & optional visits to Victoria Falls & Game Parks

A week away from £460.00

For four departures only we shall be operating a special flight at an especially low tariff to the lovely city of Harare, with its fine museums housing the artefacts of David Livingstone. We have a small number of seats available over the period allowing us to make a special offer of six nights in the famous 5-star deluxe Meikles Hotel.

Besides visiting the many sights in and around Harare there are a host of excursion possibilities to the nearby game reserves and the highland areas such as Leopard's Rock. Excursions can be booked in advance to the tourist areas of the famous Victoria Falls (by air) and the Bally Vaughn Game Park. Alternatively you may wish to hire a car and explore the country independently.

This is an unique opportunity to visit southern Africa at a fraction of the normal tariff. The price includes return flights, transfers and six nights' accommodation. Flights are by non-stop, wide-bodied, scheduled seat configured Boeing 767 aircraft.

THE MEIKLES HOTEL, HARARE

Voted Africa's finest hotel, Meikles is centrally located in Harare. It has a host of public facilities including a swimming pool, a number of fine restau-



nants, a coffee shop, travel desk for local excursions and shops. The guest rooms are all air-conditioned with full facilities including TV. Travellers never fail to be impressed.

## DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

1997 Tuesdays - per person in a twin  
August 19, 26, 48, 50 - September 2, 9, 16, 23  
Single supplement £195 - Extra week £235

Prices include: return airfare, transfers, flights, accommodation and the Meikles Hotel. Not included: international airport taxes, 15% departure tax, 10% VAT, and a 10% service charge. All prices are in pounds sterling and are subject to change. Our current Conditions of Booking (a copy of which is available on request) shall apply to all reservations.

0171-616 1000

VOYAGES JULES VERNE

21 Dorset Square, London NW1 6DG  
Travel Promotions Ltd, 0171 1661 1700 (LONDON)  
Internet: <http://www.voyages.co.uk>

Our offices are open for telephone reservations from 10am to 6pm and at weekends from 10am to 5pm. For personal callers, our office hours are 10am to 5pm weekdays only.

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 23

HOLDERBAT

(b) A type of bracket for fastening a pipe to a wall or other surface, consisting of two semicircular parts that are clamped round the pipe and a projection on one of the parts that is built into the wall. The holderbat has two portions, a circular ring, with a jointed or removable portion, and a tail which is cemented into the wall.

NEMESIS

(a) Feelings of frustration turned inward and expressed by aggression directed against the self. A psychological term. From the Greek *nemesis*. "The psychoanalyst might appropriately call the turning of aggression upon the individual's own self nemesis from the name of the Greek goddess of vengeance. Nemesis could then be thought of as the counterpart of narcissism."

MIAMI

(b) The first step in a Japanese arranged marriage whereby the prospective partners meet briefly in company with their families to decide if they are mutually acceptable. From the Japanese *mi* seeing + *ai* mutually. "I have a young friend who was married several months ago, who saw his wife for the first time at the final several weeks before the wedding."

SOPH

(a) An abbreviation of *sophistic* and *sophomore*. From the Greek *sophia* wisdom, hence *sophist*'s pretty damn full of wisdom. "I know it is your birthday, Sophie, but don't be such a soph about it."

## TAKE A SUMMER BREAK WITH BRITAIN'S LARGEST GROUP OF 3 & 4 STAR HOTELS

- Summer Saver Leisure Breaks from £94.50 per person for 3 nights half board.\*
- 2 night Getaway Breaks from £85 per person half board.
- Over 220 quality 3 and 4 star independently owned hotels in the best choice of leisure locations in Britain.
- More hotels with swimming pools than any other hotel group.
- Over 90 restaurants awarded AA rosettes for excellent food.
- Best choice of hotels with on site golf.
- Children stay & travel free.\*

\*See brochure for full details.  
Reservations open: Sunday 11am to 4pm, Monday - Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday 9am to 6pm.

SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR  
CALL 0345 747474 NOW







1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.















# THE TIMES

2

INSIDE  
SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday

**WORKING WEEK**  
Battle-hardened  
general pulls off  
a revolution  
**PAGE 27**



**BUSINESS**  
Graham Searjeant  
on a dire prospect  
for savers  
**PAGE 29**



**SPORT**  
Clarke drives  
his way to  
Open golf lead  
**PAGES 42-48**

**THE TIMES  
CITY  
DIARY  
PAGE  
27**

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY JULY 19 1997

Highest June deposits for ten years as investors bet on more windfall

## Carpentbaggers 'blitz' societies

BY CAROLINE MERRELL  
AND ANNE ASHWORTH

NEARLY £2 billion poured into building society coffers last month as speculators took a massive punt on which society would be the next to convert into a bank.

Building society inflows in June were the highest monthly figure for a decade. Adrian Coles, Director-General of the Building Societies Association, said: "This reveals the intense pressure societies are under from carpentbaggers."

Thursday's board election. The indications are that many members have voted for a group of dissident members, led by Michael Hardern, a freelance butler, who want the Nationwide to convert.

Dr Brian Davis, chief executive of Nationwide, said it was pure speculation to suggest the large number of votes pointed to a Hardern victory. "If the five do get elected, then obviously we will have to reconsider our position," he added.

rather than flotation. Dr Davis claimed he had not received approaches from any other organisations, but in the past has admitted that if the right offer came along it would have to consider it.

Roy Ranson, managing director of Equitable Life, the mutual insurer, called yesterday for a period of protection to be given to mutual bodies that were the subject of takeover bids. He said that this would allow members to balance the benefits of immediate windfalls against the long-term advantages of remaining part of a mutually owned organisation.

## BZW sacks four as SEC looks into losses

BY JASON NUSSE

BARCLAYS de Zoete Wedd, the troubled investment banking arm of Barclays, has fired four staff and is being investigated by US regulators over allegations that it absorbed losses incurred by its clients.

The SEC investigation has received testimony from Kate Evans, a former BZW trader, who claimed that error forms were changed to hide the trading losses BZW had absorbed. BZW refused to discuss "Ms Evans or her testimony."



The Spice Girls. EMI assets but not board material, though a woman candidate is sought



Southgate: find the lady

6 In view of the fact that five of our main assets are young ladies, I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really want you to do?



Fifield: £6.9m package

## Girl power rules at EMI

BY PAUL DURMAN

ZIGZAG AHI! Girl power may have given a terrific boost to EMI Group's profits last year, yet the music company behind the Spice Girls has still to admit even one woman on to its board.

EMI chairman who has been known to refer to Geri, Mel B, Mel C, Emma and Victoria as "sex on ten legs", yesterday told his shareholders what they, and everyone else, already knew — the Spice Girls

were the most notable of the company's successful new acts last year. But Sir Colin was put on the spot when one woman shareholder, echoing "Wannabe" told him "what I want, what I really really want" was at least one woman appointed as a director.

### BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	4877.2	(-71.5)
Yield	3.35%	
FTSE All share	2204.14	(-27.42)
US 100	2250.32	(-28.92)
New York	7512.36	(-108.47)
Dow Jones	517.28	(-14.50)
S&P Composite	114.50	(-1.45)
Federal Funds	5.75%	(0.00%)
Long Bond	91.14	(101.00)
Yield	6.50%	(0.40%)
3-month Interbank	6.75%	(0.00%)
Life long gilt	114.4	(114.4)
Future (Sep)	114.4	(114.4)
New York	1.5785	(1.5730)
London	1.5744	(1.5719)
DM	2.9583	(2.9582)
FF	10.1210	(10.1210)
SF	2.4679	(2.4679)
Yen	193.41	(194.01)
S Index	104.8	(104.7)
Tokyo close	115.78	
Brent 15-day (Oct)	518.35	(518.70)
London close	524.25	(520.65)

\* denotes midday trading price

## FTSE falls swiftly after 5,000 flirtation

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE FTSE 100 came within two points of breaching the elusive 5,000 barrier yesterday before equity bears gained the upper hand and sent shares crashing to their largest one-day fall since March.

After rising 49.1 points in the first hour of official trading, shares beat a sharp retreat, with the index falling 100 points by mid-afternoon before staging a recovery. The FTSE 100 closed 71.8 lower, at 4,877.2.

International stock markets also suffered heavy losses as Wall Street retreated. Markets in Frankfurt, Paris and Milan closed sharply down.

Dealers blamed the fall in London on the expiry of July futures options contracts and renewed fears over US interest rate rises. The FTSE 100 is expected to remain volatile next week ahead of retail sales data, regarded as crucial to determining when the Bank of England will increase interest rates again.

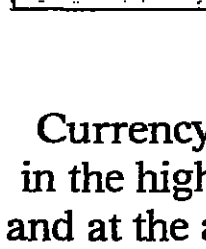
Separate British Bankers Association figures showed housing lending rising by £900 million in June, the largest increase for four years.

Markets, page 28

## WEEKEND MONEY



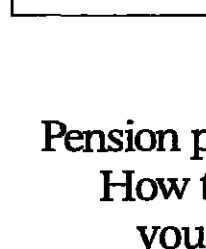
**30**  
Anne Ashworth  
on the fight  
for mutuality



**29**  
Currency deals  
in the high street  
and at the airport



**31**  
Windfall shares  
with the brightest  
prospects



**PENSIONS**  
**33**  
Pension phobia?  
How to calm  
your fears



**INVESTMENT**  
**36-37**  
Offshore  
investment and  
tax special

## BA aims to form Iberia alliance

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS yesterday announced plans to form an alliance with Iberia, the state-owned Spanish airline.

Detailed talks are to begin on setting up the deal that could come into effect from next summer and provide BA with greater access to Latin American routes.

Iberia won approval for a £440 million state cash injection last year in spite of fierce objections from a number of rival airlines, including BA.

Latin America is one of BA's weakest regions and the airline has been trying to establish better links for many years. As well serving routes from Madrid to most Latin American capital cities, Iberia has stakes in airlines in Colombia, Chile and Argentina.

BA's tie-up with Iberia would enable the airlines to book passengers from London to Madrid with BA and then on to South America on Iberia with one ticket and one flight number.

The Spanish Government plans to privatise Iberia early next year and BA said yesterday it would consider taking a small stake in the airline.

Under the proposals, the airlines will operate flights beyond both London and Madrid under the same code number and allow each other's passengers to take part in their frequent flyer programmes.

BA and Iberia hope to reduce costs by sharing some services and co-ordinating such operations as cargo. The alliance would give Iberia access to BA's worldwide network.

Bob Ayling, BA chief executive, said: "This agreement would offer both our and Iberia's customers considerable advantages, in particular making it easier to fly to a wider range of destinations."

The European Commission has been informed of the proposals, which could also involve American Airlines should BA's planned alliance also be approved.

The Spanish Government

Tempus, page 28

imaginative  
accomplished  
exceptional

If you are too, we should talk

**Kleinwort Benson**  
PRIVATE BANK  
To talk, call 0800 317477  
KBFB is a Division of Kleinwort Benson Investment Management Limited and is regulated by IMRO.  
Member of the Dresdner Bank Group



# OFT warns lenders about unfair practices

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

JOHN BRIDGEMAN, Director-General of Fair Trading, issued his strongest warning yet to finance companies specialising in loans to people with poor credit ratings: clean up your act or lose your consumer credit licences.

Lenders and brokers have been given two months to stop practices that Mr Bridgeman called deceitful, oppressive and unfair. New guidelines from the OFT prohibit the use of dual

rates of interest, which can double the amount borrowers owe if they are late making payments. They also ban lenders from levying excessively high redemption penalties using a calculation known as rule 78. Mr Bridgeman said rule 78 was inappropriate and that lenders should introduce caps or find alternative methods. Either way, penalties should be reasonable and do no more than cover lenders' costs, said Mr Bridgeman. The new rules also make lenders

responsible for the actions of brokers selling their loans. Brokers can receive commissions up to 10 per cent of the value of a loan and there have been many cases of hard selling, cold calling and fraudulent loan applications.

Solicitors acting for borrowers with City Mortgage Corporation, the largest of secondary lenders, applauded the initiative. They have been fighting CMC on the very points condemned by Mr Bridgeman and

expect to issue a writ for a class action against the company in the next week.

David Steene, managing director of CMC, also welcomed the introduction of regulatory standards, as did Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister. Last month he held talks with Mr Bridgeman on how "non-status" lenders could be regulated.

CMC pointed out that it had already said it would withdraw rule 78 on new loans from August 1.

However, it refused to comment on the financial impact that abolishing dual rates and rule 78 would have on its existing loan portfolio. CMC represents a quarter of the turnover of Cityscape, its US parent, but contributes more than half the group's profits. All its loans are immediately securitised by Greenwich International, a subsidiary of NatWest Markets. Analysts said the bonds, which are mostly sold in the US market, could be downgraded.

## UK investors plan rescue of ailing Grundig

By OLIVER AUGUST

A UK investor group led by Botts & Co, a privately owned merchant bank in London, will attempt to rescue Grundig, the ailing German television manufacturer.

The Botts investors yesterday acquired a 43 per cent stake in Grundig from Philips, the Dutch electronics group, and from Hohenstaufen Vierundvierzigste Vermögensverwaltung, a German investor group.

The UK investors say they will inject undisclosed new capital into Grundig and could acquire majority control in 2004. Grundig's management was not told of the change of ownership.

Michael Handrick, a Botts director, said: "We invest in companies which we believe to be undervalued. Our average holding time is three to five years. Grundig obviously has some problems. One of the reasons is the recession in Germany. But we feel the company can be turned around, hopefully faster than in three to five years."

Philips still holds a 5 per cent stake after selling a 26.6 per cent stake to the UK investors. A stake of 52 per cent is held by the Max Grundig Foundation family trust with an option to sell its stake to Philips for DM411 million (£135 million) in 2004.

Mr Handrick said: "If and when the shares are put to Philips, we have the right to purchase them from Philips. We prefer not to talk about the price."

He said that if the Botts investors sold their stake before 2004 then the right to buy the foundation shares could be sold as part of the package.

Botts will begin talks with Grundig in the next few weeks. Mr Handrick said: "The relationship between Grundig and Philips has not been a very harmonious one. We have not had access to the Grundig management and therefore our picture of them is somewhat sketchy."

Philips stopped covering losses at Grundig this year and said that it wanted to become a passive shareholder. A spokesman said: "It is a logical further step to reduce our interest in Grundig."

Philips is disputing Grundig's losses of DM671 million (£223 million) for 1996. It said the stated losses had been inflated by extensive provisions for new policies adopted after the year end. Arthur Andersen, the accountants, endorsed this view.

Grundig is disputing Philips's claim.



Well covered: David Green, of Colefax & Fowler, the wallpaper and furnishings company, reported pre-tax profits of £2.63 million from £1.84 million in the year to April 30. Earnings rose to 7.7p a share from 5.7p. A final dividend of 1.4p, due on October 7, increases the total to 2.3p from 1.9p. The group saw strong sales growth in all its brands

## Top brands join four-way sales tie

By GEORGE SIVELL

FOUR UK consumer brands have taken the first steps towards combining aspects of their global product marketing.

Bass Breweries, Cadbury, Kimberly-Clark and Unilever will work towards joint marketing of each other's products in a venture to be based at Birds Eye's offices in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. Initially the four will pool information on consumer trends but will work towards joint marketing. They will take an equal share in the joint venture although the costs and the number of staff to be deployed were not disclosed.

However, the opportunities for cross-marketing are vast. Unilever is putting its Birds Eye Wall's food brands, Elida Faberge, Lever Brothers detergents and Van den Bergh foods, into the study.

Kimberly-Clark brands include Huggies, Pull-Ups, Kimwipes, Kleenex and Wypall. Cadbury has 13 brands in the league table of top 30 chocolate brands and Bass has 23 per cent of the British market through Carling Black Label, Tennent's Lager and Draught Bass.

The four say: "We have to stay at the forefront of consumer marketing, an area that is constantly developing. The aim is to improve our understanding of, and dialogue with, consumers in order that brands continue to meet their needs. All our members already have a detailed knowledge of consumers. However, to enhance this we will work together, building a pool of information of a size and quality that would not be achievable by an individual company."

## Trade fears grow over Boeing link

By GEORGE SIVELL

TRADE analysts believe the Clinton Administration has a case under World Trade Organisation rules if, as seems likely, the European Commission imposes a formal block next week on the huge aerospace merger between Boeing and McDonnell Douglas.

WTO officials were plainly nervous over the prospects of a complex row between two of the world's largest trading blocks, believing it threatened the fabric of a carefully nurtured dispute mechanism. The official WTO line was: "The US and the EU are two of our biggest members. We hope they resolve this amicably and rapidly." The statement came after President Clinton signalled earlier this week that he would seek a WTO ruling or impose sanctions on Europe if the merger were blocked by Brussels.

Trade envoys believe such a dispute would bog down the WTO, which is now trying to settle almost 70 disputes. They also fear that the vast sums of money involved could tempt either side to brush aside any WTO ruling.

A similar threat was avoided in 1995 when America and Japan settled a row over car exports. Another European-American dispute over the Helms-Burton law on investment in Cuba is in suspense. The WTO dispute settlement system provides for final rulings by neutral panels and appeals boards within a maximum of 18 months of a complaint being lodged.

The EU has argued that the merger would create a dominant global firm damaging fair competition in Europe. Brussels is expected to take a final decision on July 23.

## Shareholder attacks warning by Johnston

JOHNSTON GROUP, the engineering, pipes and construction conglomerate, was fiercely criticised by a leading shareholder after a profits warning sent its shares into freefall. The company, whose shares closed 65p down at 385p, wiping £7 million off its value, gave warning that both its results for the six months to June and its full-year results would be lower than in 1996. The surprise announcement infuriated TT Group, the rival conglomerate which made a hostile bid for 27.4 per cent of Johnston last year. It offered 500p per share, valuing the company at £53.49 million.

Johnston rebutted TT, which still owns 7 per cent, by reassuring shareholders that its management strategy was sound and that its underlying businesses were growing. Although TT refused to say whether it would make another bid it strongly urged Johnston to sell its construction contracting business and its business in North America. Johnston blamed its problems on the strength of sterling, and difficulties with its new roadsweeping machine.

## WHS buyback move

WH SMITH Group, the troubled retailer whose shares have fallen more than 30 per cent in the past 12 months, is to seek authority to buy back up to 10 per cent of its equity. The buyback would involve the purchase of up to 28.5 million shares, which, at yesterday's close, would cost £105 million. An extraordinary meeting has been convened for August 19. The buyback would not be implemented until the year-end results on August 27. The shares have fallen to 368.5p from a 12-month high of 532p, amid concern about the trading performance and defection of Bill Cockburn, chief executive, to BT.

## Mansfield buys again

MANSFIELD, the Nottinghamshire brewery, continued its expansion plans buying seven managed houses from an independent Northampton pub firm. Mansfield will pay £8.5 million for the McManus Taverns properties. Their addition takes Mansfield's total in the town to 17 which it said "firmly cemented" its presence in the county. Mansfield will take control of the pubs and their 150 staff within seven days, phasing in its products and beers over the next couple of weeks. The company plans to spend some £30 million on expansion this year.

## AH Ball payout fear

A H BALL, the building and construction group, is likely to make a provision of up to £800,000 for the year to March 31 and is unlikely to recommend a full-year dividend. The company made £166,000 in the year to March 1996. It said the anticipated dividend decision would be a result of a deficit on one of its main contracts and "currently unresolved issues". The company has also exchanged contracts to sell its freehold property in Farnham, Surrey, for £925,000, conditional only on obtaining appropriate planning consent. A planning application has been made.

## Special from Arnold

BARR & WALLACE Arnold Trust is to pay shareholders a £17.9 million special dividend, worth 120p a share, after it completes the £41.8 million sale of the Wallace Arnold coach holiday business to management. The buyout, led by Robert Barr, BWAT director, is being backed by 3i, the venture capital group, which is providing £60 million funding. The deal, which is subject to shareholder approval, will leave BWAT as a motor dealer with Ford, Vauxhall and Peugeot franchises. It is to change its name to Trust Motor Group. *Tempos, page 28*

## MDIS restructuring

SHARES in McDonnell Information Systems were relisted as the troubled computer services group unveiled a £24.3 million restructuring to help to stay afloat. Restructuring cash was raised through the placing of 105 million shares at 26p each, which doubles the company's share capital. MDIS confirmed that its losses had increased to £49.5 million in the year to December, partly over exceptional charges of £21.5 million. Without the placing it would not have been able to settle its arrears of £9.5 million or liabilities of £4.6 million.

## Hansom fall continues

HANSOM, the London taxi company that joined the Alternative Investment Market in 1995, last year continued its plunge into the red, making pre-tax losses of £1 million (£390,000 in the previous period). Turnover fell by 11.7 per cent, from £10.9 million to £9.6 million. The losses were caused partly by the group's restructuring, which involved getting rid of its taxi business in Fulham and investing £250,000 in Datacab. The group now expects to benefit from its reduced overheads. Again, no dividend will be paid.

## Calluna drives into red

PRE-TAX losses at Calluna, maker of miniature hard disk drives, rose to £4.94 from £4.88 million in the year to end-March. Turnover fell to £2.22 million from £2.87 million, although second-half sales rose to £1.4 million (£780,000). The losses were caused partly by the development and early manufacturing of the 30MB 1.5-inch disk drive. Calluna said it would change its operating structure and trading partnerships to exploit market opportunities. Earnings fell to 8.4p a share from 9.1p. Again, there will be no dividend.

## Grampian Holdings sale

GRAMPIAN HOLDINGS is selling its interests in animal health products for £67.8 million to a new company backed by 3i and Bank of Scotland. Grampian Pharmaceuticals operates in Britain and Ireland but has interests in Europe, Australia and New Zealand. In the 13 months to end-January, it earned operating profits of £7 million on turnover of £56.9 million. The disposal gives a gain of £32.5 million, which will be used mainly to fund retailing and transport developments. The company also aims to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares.

PLAIN SPEAKING HOME INSURANCE

**"I believe your home insurance should also protect your wallet."**

Renew during July or August and save around £100

Switch your buildings insurance from your mortgage lender to Prudential and we'll give you £25 off your first year's buildings premium.

What's more, if you take out combined buildings and contents insurance, you'll receive a 15% discount off your contents premium.

And if you're aged 45 or over, then there's up to 20% off your buildings and contents premiums.

In fact, the average saving for customers who switch to Prudential is £100. With savings like these, it's no wonder that over 90% of our customers renewed their policies with us last year.

For a free quote and a free home security video ring

**0800 300 300**

**PRUDENTIAL**

Lines are open from 9am Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm Saturday and 11am to 3pm Sunday. For your protection, calls on this number will be recorded. Please quote reference PRS 128.

## Expansion and change of venues for London Clubs

By DOMINIC WALSH

LONDON Clubs International, the upmarket casino operator, has been granted a new casino licence that will enable it to move its Rendezvous Casino at the London Hilton on Park Lane to new premises adjoining the nearby Metropolitan hotel.

Alan Goodenough, chief executive, speaking after the company's annual meeting yesterday, said that up to £5 million would be spent on the new Rendezvous.

He said the 20-year lease was at a rent 20 per cent lower than the Hilton premises. Industry observers expect Ladbrokes, the Hilton's owner, to consider transferring one of its own London licences to the old Rendezvous site. The res-



Goodenough: two moves

lution of the Rendezvous move follows Mr Goodenough's success in sorting out a messy dispute with the Ritz Hotel, whose owners, the Barclay brothers, were demanding a £20 million premium for a

new lease on the Ritz Club in the hotel's basement.

London Clubs has bought the freehold of a much bigger Grade II listed building for £15.5 million, and is spending £5.5 million refurbishing it. The new casino, to be called 50 St James after its address on St James Street, is scheduled to open after the Ritz Club lease expires next June.

Mr Goodenough is still awaiting a decision by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, on London Clubs's £190 million bid for Capital Corporation, its smaller London rival. London Clubs withdrew the bid after it was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, but analysts expect it to revive its interest if cleared by Mrs Beckett.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES THE FRENCH CONNECTION

For some people the deal has taken on a symbolic importance beyond the £24 billion at stake. It has become a power struggle between the Anglo-Saxon business establishment and an entrepreneurial Frenchman; a battle over some of the most potent brands in the world.

Business Focus on the Guinness - GrandMet merger - tomorrow

## Club Med founders quit

By JON ASHWORTH

CLUB Méditerranée, the French leisure group, has parted company with the founding family that dreamt up the "sun, sea and sex" holiday formula nearly 50 years ago.

Serge Trigano, pushed aside as chairman in February, and his father Gilbert, who co-founded Club Med in 1950, have resigned from the company's supervisory board in a falling-out with his successor, Philippe Bourguignon, the former head of the Euro Disney theme park operator.

The departures came as Club Med announced a loss of £413 million (£40.49 million) for the six months to

April 30. Operating profits of Fr84 million were more than offset by Fr88 million in interest charges. The company, whose largest shareholder is now Italy's Agnelli family, said further provisions were possible.

Mr Trigano said on French radio that Club Med's villages risked turning into "Mickey [Mouse] clubs", and it was time for the founders to get out. "There was a certain spirit in this firm, a certain soul based on love, tenderness and generosity," he said. "I don't know if it will be a Mickey Club or something else but it will certainly be a different club from the past, and it's not my club. There is

no place left for a Trigano." He hinted that the Trigano family planned to launch a rival holiday club chain, addressing new leisure markets such as the elderly.

Club Med confirmed the departures in a statement thanking Gilbert Trigano, who supplied the original tent villages on which Club Med built its reputation, and Serge Trigano for "his action". The company grew to embrace 114 all-inclusive Club Med villages around the world, but fell victim to a cumbersome management structure. The number of Club Med clients grew by 30,000 to 1.4 million last year, but turnover and profits fell.

	Bank	Buy	Bank	Sale
Australia	2.37		2.19	
Austria	22.07		20.41	
Belgium	65.03		60.07	
Canada	2.03		2.28	
Cyprus	0.823		0.851	
Denmark	11.89		11.10	
Finland	5.20		5.55	
France	10.88		9.80	
Germany	3.18		2.32	
Greece	4.97		4.69	
Hong Kong	13.75		12.85	
India	1.17		1.04	
Italy	8.23		5.39	
Japan	30.84		28.87	
Netherlands	20.82		19.70	
Norway	0.882		0.829	
Norway	0.882		0.829	
Portugal	0.882		0.829	
Spain	11.89		11.10	
Sweden	5.20		5.55	
Switzerland	10.88		9.80	
Taiwan	3.18		2.32	
USA	4.97		4.69	

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay Bank. Other rates apply to banknotes of other denominations. Rates set at close of trading yesterday.



A WORKING WEEK FOR: CHARLES MILLER SMITH

# Battle-hardened general pulls off a revolution

Oliver August calls on the soft-spoken, heavy phone-using boss who almost single-handedly redrew the map of a chemicals empire

**Monday** THE man who runs Britain's largest chemicals business does not have a desk. Charles Miller Smith has steered the radical reshaping of the Imperial Chemical Industries empire from a tidy green leather sofa. There are no loose pieces of paper or bank reports around. Not a single paper clip on the floor. One could mistake his office for the common room of an Oxford college.

**Tuesday** "I've always had a horror of locking up my papers in a desk and losing the key," Miller Smith admits. So he disposed of the desk and the piles of paper.

**Wednesday** The only thing to clutter the oak-panelled room is his trademark cardigan. Neatly folded, it is on the sofa next to him. He is reluctant to wear it having found a small hole in it. For a man who earned half a million pounds last year as chief executive this seems an unusually mundane worry. It is all the more unusual in view of his recent achievements.

**Thursday** The last fortnight has seen the culmination of Miller Smith's revolution that has changed ICI beyond recognition. In a frantic six days one deal was completed and two more agreed, with a total value of £3 billion. Like a battle-hardened general he marshalled his divisions and discarded renegade units. He also gave marching orders to tens of thousands of employees.

**Friday** Almost single-handedly he redrew the map of a chemicals empire often described as the bellwether of British industry. But he did so without losing his reputation for being a soft-spoken conciliator.

The upheaval started with the completion of the £5 billion acquisition of Unilever's specialty chemicals business. During his 30-plus years at Unilever, the unit had been built up by Miller Smith himself. When he moved to ICI two years ago, he took with him the idea of focusing on specialty and industrial chemicals.

In a decisive break with the past, he designed a twin strategy, that would remove ICI still further from its historic roots as a bulk chemicals producer and took it closer to the consumer and into less cyclical markets.

The acquisition of the Unilever division was the cornerstone of this strategy, which has won him praise from the City and within ICI. Sir Ronald Hempel, its chairman, said: "ICI was formed by merger 70 years ago. This deal creates nothing less than a new ICI for the new millennium."

To pay for Unilever's specialty chemicals business, Miller Smith needed to find £3 billion cash. In May, he gave himself three years to raise the money by selling off non-core activities. Less than three months later he has got the money. How did he do it? After completing the

Unilever deal on Tuesday last week, he sold £1 billion worth of shares in ICI Australia the next Friday. This move was followed on Monday by the sale of several divisions, including the polyester unit, to DuPont for almost £2 billion. That paid for the acquisition of the Unilever business. "It gives me an overwhelming sense of satisfaction," says an understandably tired Miller Smith.

But the bare financial mechanics of his deal-making are no real answer to the question of how he did it. How could he move with such speed when ICI executives had despaired for so long? How could he make so many people join his bandwagon when the doorman hardly notices him slipping through the steel gates at the Millbank head office?

"The Unilever deal, for example, I sat for ten days non-stop on this sofa here. The only difference was instead of one, two, three, four people in the room," Miller Smith says, slowly gazing around the office, "there were a dozen by the end."

One of the greatest corporate reshaping in recent British history was essentially negotiated by Miller Smith talking on the phone from his sofa. "I had the phone here on my lap particularly at night. For some strange reason it doesn't ring through so you have to watch the red arrow flash. That's how we ran the

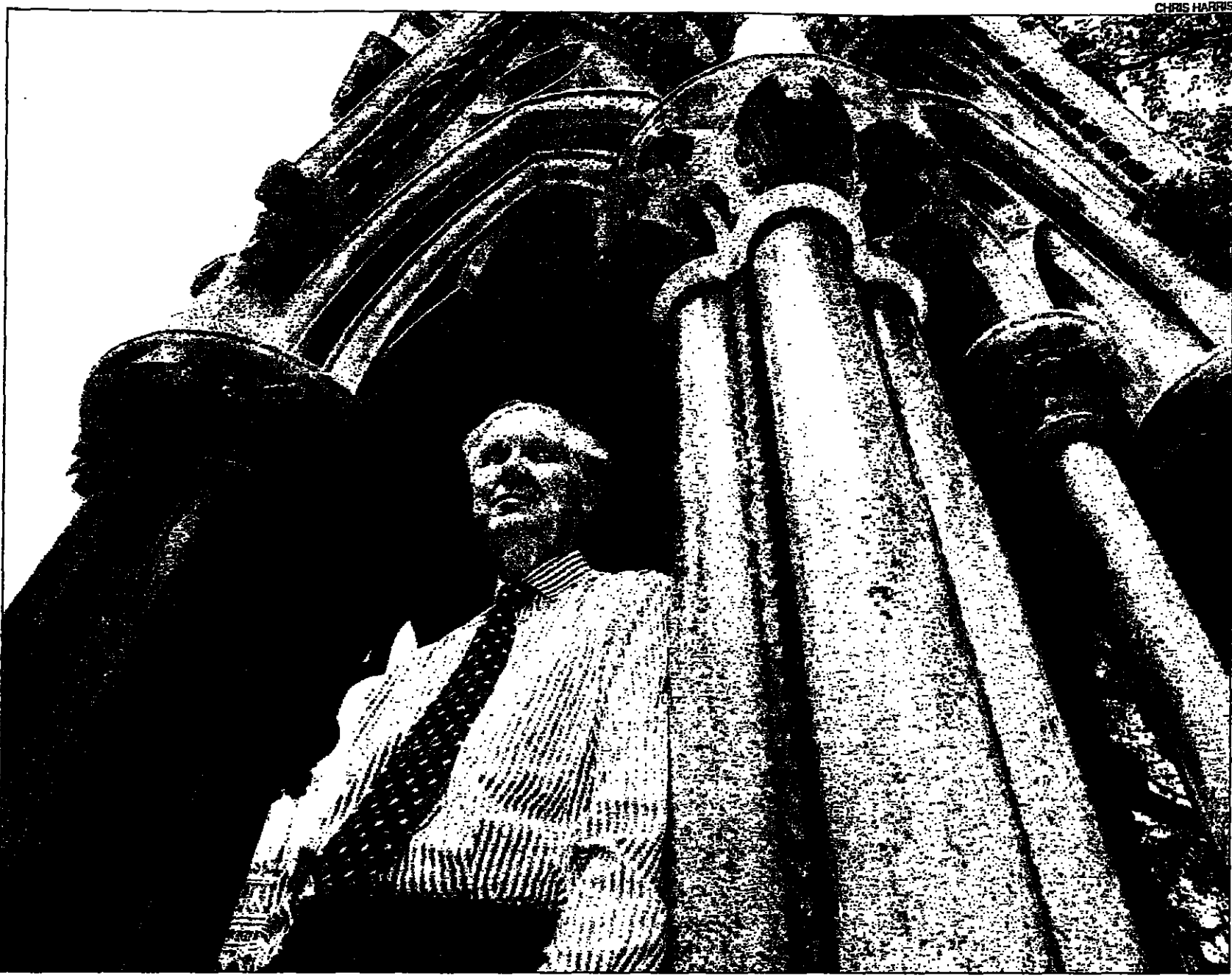
Unilever deal, and similarly for the DuPont and the Australian deal."

But Miller Smith does not merely run the empire sitting down. "I'm a terrible wanderer," he says. During the hectic days of last week he got up at 6am and arrived at Millbank around 7.30 am. Much to the dismay of his secretary, Linda, he then proceeded to stroll through offices on all six floors, talking to staff instead of attending scheduled meetings.

Somewhat ironically for someone universally described as soft-spoken, Miller Smith thinks of himself as a compulsive walker and talker as well as a bad timekeeper. He says: "I am a wanderer around Millbank and a wanderer around the world. Why? You hear and see much more when you go to people than you ever get out of a hundred reports."

"That intuitive feeling of what is really happening, that gets lost when it is distilled, you will pick up in a second when you speak to people. It is a great way to break down barriers. If you wander around this building and wander around ICI, it is remarkable what you hear. You pick up in an instant personal tensions or animosities. You pick up different points of view left out of reports because they don't fit in with conventional wisdom."

ICI being a global enterprise, Miller Smith can walk into the offices of only a tiny minority of his staff. The employees, a whole has more than 60,000 employees. To stay in touch with the many divisional executives in more than 30 countries and to avoid reading their reports — he inevitably has to rely on the phone. Last



Charles Miller Smith has always had a horror of locking up documents in a desk and losing the key — so he disposed of the desk and the piles of paper

week he made an average of 50 calls a day. "I use the phone a lot," he says with mock understatement. Next to his preferred end of the sofa — looking out over the Thames and Lambeth Bridge — is a small coffee table. The surface is wiped clean. On occasion his butler may put down a cup of Earl Grey. But the two items always on the table are his mobile phone and the old-fashioned phone with the red arrow.

The phone was especially invaluable during the Australian negotiations. The Australian Government sold its gold reserves a week before the billion-pound bundle of shares in ICI Australia were to be offered to investors, causing upheaval in the Australian financial markets. Panic set in at Millbank. There was no telling how the offering was going to be affected.

Miller Smith says: "I made a call just before I went to sleep Thursday evening so the market was just opening in Australia. I heard the stock had opened well and knew the international offer was going well. I was back in my office at six

o'clock in the morning. I phoned Mike Evans at Goldman Sachs and heard how it was going to be priced."

The alternative to phone overkill would be the acquisition of an ICI corporate jet to ferry Miller Smith around. But, showing the Calvinist frugality of his Scottish upbringing, he prefers scheduled airlines. "They are safer and cheaper," he says.

Restricting overseas travel to occasional trips also has the advantage of granting him more time with the family. His musings on his loved ones paint the picture of a deeply ordinary life. Happily

married to Dorothy for 40 years, Miller Smith has three grown-up children. He and his wife like to stay in most nights.

When he comes home they gossip "about the office". At ten he goes to bed and reads until he falls asleep. Every Saturday, including last Saturday, the two of them go to the same Italian restaurant on Lower Sloane Street. Every Sunday, including last Sunday, the whole family lunches together. Whenever possible they go walking near their cottage in Aberdeenshire.

To relax, the mild-mannered Miller Smith is at present reading an ancient

Chinese book, *The Art of War*, by Sun Zi. The book is the declared bible of famous generals like Norman Schwarzkopf, the Gulf War supreme. Is this where the grand strategies for ICI come from? And would a truly mild-mannered man really read such a book?

Whatever the answer, this oh-so-ordinary man is everything the British like in themselves. He is courteous, self-deprecating and strong-minded without being brash. While it is hard to believe that Miller Smith is really in charge of such a huge company, it is impossible to dislike him.

‘This deal creates a new ICI for the new millennium’

## Pen friends

ALL those teenage scribbles at ABN Amro Hoare Govett have a new boss. Lyn Moran, former managing director of investment banking at James Capel, resurfaces there on Monday as head of European research. She has been brought in by Nick Barnister, recently made regional boss at Hoare Govett for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

I would not wish to disturb any of those keen analysts. But her priority is to ensure that research, sales and corporate finance work as a team. I am told. This might be a bit of corporate flim-flam, or it might be more sinister. Most analysts feel that job satisfaction, reputation, sanity, whatever, is best safeguarded by having as little to do with corporate finance as possible.

● ONE of the men behind the production by cloning of Dolly the sheep is joining the biotech company PPL Therapeutics. Keith Campbell joins from the Roslin Institute, where he worked on the Dolly project with Ian Wilmut. He is heading research on a process called nuclear transfer, which was used on Dolly and some-

thing to do with PPL's business. Don't ask me how, but it gives me the shivers. A million dollars to a broken test-tube that he gets a sharp rise from his academic salary.

I was unable to track down Dr Campbell to answer one or two scientific questions that bother me. Given all sheep look the same, how do we know you've cloned them? And how do we know Dolly 2 isn't merely Dolly 1's natural sister with a matching haircut?

## Carr race

SOMETHING of a needle match at this weekend's Dragon Boat race at Henley? A team is entering from the broker Carr Sheppards, including Fred Carr, chief executive and an Oxford rowing blue — on the assumption that he does not swamp the boat, for he is a big chap. There is also a boat crewed by Investec of South Africa, which has just bought Carr Sheppards. It is whispered that the South Africans, who are never keen on losing at anything, might have slipped in a couple of ringers.

## Figured out

YET another senior City journalist has been hured into the seedy world of financial public relations. Ian Griffiths, City editor of the *Independent on Sunday* is starting his descent into inevitable madness, degradation and despair in early September, when he joins the Ludgate PR agency.

Griffiths, 42, is well travelled, having run the City pages of *The Independent* and the *London Evening Standard*, but he has now succumbed to the mid-life crisis that seems to afflict so many City writers eventually. Or perhaps it is the money. He is a qualified accountant with a serious publication to his name, *Creative Accounting* —



"not your usual popular stuff written by a journalist", says my informant wittingly.

## Steele away

GRAHAM STEELE has quit abruptly as managing director of the Superdrug chain "for personal reasons". Kingfisher, which owns Superdrug, was not being very helpful yesterday, but I am assured this has nothing to do with reports a while back that he was planning a management buyout. The statement was slipped out quietly and not announced through the Stock Exchange screens. Legal, as he was not a main board director, but still strange. The City, puzzled, immediately wondered whether the expensive refurbishment at Superdrug stores had not proved its worth. No connection with this, either, I am assured.

## Landau goes

FAREWELL then, Ervin Landau, retiring as chairman of Dares Estates and selling his 3 per cent stake. The property bidder paid £356,000 in fees to its lawyers, Landau Nock & Co, last year — senior partner, yes, you guessed it. I wonder if this volume of work will continue to flow in future.

● IF MINISTERS did indeed decide on Thursday that the

British Aerospace deal to sell Hawk jets to Indonesia should be allowed through, they showed remarkable insensitivity. The £160 million sale has been opposed by civil rights groups because of allegations that Indonesia uses the craft against its opponents in East Timor. Last Thursday, July 17, was the 21st anniversary of the illegal annexation of East Timor by Indonesia.

## In person

I HEAR Merrill Lynch was upstaged at a roadshow yesterday to launch a bond issue from Reliance Industries of India by the other co-lead manager, HSBC. The Americans fielded the usual team at Painters Hall, for the 100 or so fund managers and analysts that turned up.

But HSBC brought along Sir William Purves, its chairman, who has played an increasingly hands-on role since his return from Hong Kong a while back, to add the personal touch — "leaving Merrill in the front row with fixed grins," says my informant. As one of his colleagues muttered as Purves took the rostrum for a brief presentation, "once a commercial banker, always a commercial banker."

MARTIN WALLER



Sir William Purves — once a commercial banker, always a commercial banker

THE TIMES

## GOLF

In-depth coverage of the final day from The Open.

## ARTS

Festival fever. A review of the Phoenix festival.

# IN MONDAY'S TIMES

## BOXING

Prince Naseem Hamed defends his world title.

## FEATURE

On Sight and Insight. A story about coping with blindness.







CAMPUS

bye Bonfield

## WINDFALLS 31

Which is the best society share to sell?

## WEEKEND MONEY

## INVESTMENT 36,37

Try offshore for the best catches

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

## A bigger splash for the pound on holiday

Britons travelling overseas are gaining from the strength of sterling, Caroline Merrell finds

The Madrid Ritz, one of the most opulent and grand hotels in Europe, is out of the reach of most people's holiday budgets. A double room with breakfast will cost nearly 40,000 pesetas plus 7 per cent tax. However, while still representing a substantial sum, the cost of staying in this world-famous hotel has dropped dramatically over the past year.

The incredible strength of sterling has had an equally dramatic effect on the costs of spending overseas. A year ago, one night would have cost about £208. Today it will cost £163. With about 14 million Britons expected to travel overseas this year, and 40 per cent of these choosing Spain as their favoured holiday destination, the news that, for example, they can get around 244 pesetas to the pound, instead of the 192 they received a year ago, will be heartening — especially for those planning to travel abroad in the next few weeks as the holiday season begins in earnest.

A pound that is rising strongly can lead to some unexpected savings while overseas. Those who use credit cards — still the cheapest way of spending while away — will get the exchange rate that prevails on the day the credit slip makes it back to the particular UK bank.

The length of time this takes depends on the particular country. For example, a month's delay in the transaction being processed would have meant that goods purchased last month could have ended up being 4 per cent cheaper than expected.

Those who are contemplating going on holiday over the next few months must also consider whether it is worth stockpiling currency with the pound at these levels.

The news from economists is that the pound could still continue to rise, especially if consumer spending, fuelled by building society windfalls, forces the Bank of England to

push up interest rates. However, this rise is likely to be only in the short term — the value of sterling is almost certain to fall over the longer term.

Trevor Williams, Lloyds TSB's senior economist, says: "The levels of sterling are not sustainable although it would not be surprising if sterling went a little higher. Our interest rates are now at a peak. Sterling could damage the UK economy, leading to a sell-off of sterling at the end of this year. The pound could fall to 2.60 marks by the second half of 1998."

Chris Wright, a Barclays economist, said: "Sterling's strength against the mark has been because of the strong economy and interest rate pressure."

"In the second half of this year, sterling will remain quite strong, but will not go higher. Next year, interest rate rises will slow the economy and the German recovery will continue and so sterling will weaken." A recent report from

Thomas Cook, the travel agent, looked at the effect of the pound's strength on the currencies of different holiday destinations. For example, £250 will buy nearly 50 per cent more Turkish lira than a year ago, a saving of £121.28. The same sum will buy 20 per cent more pesetas, francs and drachmas than a year ago, a saving of about £45. The table below shows some of the rates available on the high street.

However, Keith Meyrick, American Express director, gives a warning against stockpiling currency to take advantage of the surge in sterling.

He said: "Most people tend to buy their currency about a week in advance. It would be worth stockpiling it only if large amounts are being exchanged."

He does not advise holidaymakers to carry vast amounts of cash while overseas. Most travel agents recommend that holidaymakers carry a mix of cash, traveller's cheques, and credit and debit cards.



## KW saga plods along

It's been a year since the Investors' Compensation Scheme (ICS) formally took on the case of Knight Williams. The anniversary last Tuesday was not marked by party hats and streamers.

The ICS exists to bail out customers of failed financial companies. Knight Williams was a major financial adviser that went into liquidation in 1995 amid claims it had given bad advice to investors, many of them elderly. The company was fined £50,000 for rule breaches in 1994.

The ICS has received more than 1,100 compensation requests. To date it says it has paid out in only eight cases, a total of £128,000.

The already slow progress has been further delayed by former Knight Williams directors. With a threat of legal action, they have persuaded the ICS to allow them to examine compensation offers before they are sent.

The ICS has said that this will add an extra month to each claim. So far, it has dismissed all objections raised by directors in their lengthy commentaries on offers.

Kenneth Jordan, chairman of the Knight Williams Investors' Action Group of disgruntled investors, claims the directors are "disgracefully" obstructing the clean-up operation, increasing the risk of elderly claimants dying before they receive compensation.

The group has appealed to Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, for an urgent review.

Joe Egerton, a spokesman for the directors, says they are just safeguarding their rights and reputations. The directors admit some clear instances of bad advice, but deny that recommending overseas investments to some customers was

Continued on page 32, col 5

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

EXCHANGE RATES				
Bank	Selling Rate	£200	Fee	
Barclays Bank July 17, 1997				
France	9.88	1,986	2%	
Pesetas	245.5	48,100	min £3	
Marka	2,927	585.4		
Lira	2,859	571,800		
US Dollars	1.638	327.6		
NatWest Bank				
France	9.87	1,980	1.5%	
Pesetas	245.25	48,438	min £2.50	
Marka	2,933	585,577		
Lira	2,859	571,800		
US Dollars	1.638	327.6		
Lloyds Bank				
France	9.88	1,986	2%	
Pesetas	245.5	48,100	min £3	
Marka	2,927	585.4		
Lira	2,859	571,800		
US Dollars	1.638	327.6		
Abbey National				
France	9.877	1,941	1.5%	
Pesetas	245.3	48,410	min £3	
Marka	2,928	585.5		
Lira	2,841	568,298		
US Dollars	1.63	320		
Axa				
France	9.877	1,957.22 per	currency	
Pesetas	245.44	48,795		
Marka	2,932	585.5		
Lira	2,841.75	568,298		
US Dollars	1.632	322		
Post Office July 17, 1997				
France	9.806	1,937	1%	
Pesetas	245.11	48,400	min £2.50	
Marka	2,928	585.5		
Lira	2,841.5	568,298		
US Dollars	1.631	322.123		
Halifax				
France	9.855	1,941	1.5%	
Pesetas	245.222	48,427	min £3	
Marka	2,919	585.5		
Lira	2,835.185	568,298		
US Dollars	1.638	327.6		
Thomas Cook				
France	9.88	1,938	2%	
Pesetas	245.55	48,195		
Marka	2,937	585.5		
Lira	2,849	568,404		
US Dollars	1.638	327.6		
Eurostar				
France	9.88	1,920.8	2%	
Pesetas	245	48,100	min £3	
Marka	2,916	585.5		
Lira	2,853	568,298		
US Dollars	1.638	327.6		
Headrow Travel				
France	9.88	1,946	1.5%	
Pesetas	245.1	48,482	min £2.50	
Marka	2,942	585.5		
Lira	2,853	568,298		
US Dollars	1.635	322.1		

## Dire outlook for pensions

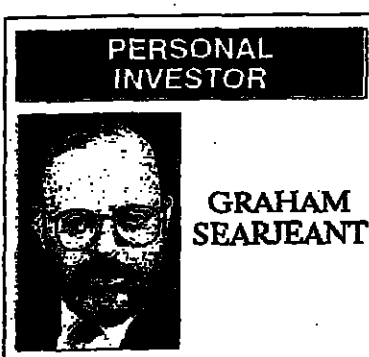
Responsible young savers face a puzzling conundrum. On the one hand they are told how vital it is that they should start a private pension plan as soon as possible because future taxpayers will not provide. On the other, they are told by people who should know better that all available pension schemes are a bad deal. In any case, the system is going to be reformed so that anyone signing up now is buying a pig in a poke.

For those of us brought up in a more stable society, it seems almost an act of treason to dissuade the uncommitted from signing up to pension plans. Yet there seem few good reasons to do so, at least until the Government's review has led to firm proposals.

If that review is to help those conducting it had better understand that pension plans are not intrinsically as wonderful as they seem to assure. A distinction should be drawn between occupational schemes under which a company offers a pension linked to final salary and the rest. These final salary schemes are still essentially a benefit to which employees contribute and should generally be accepted as such.

Pension plans that depend wholly on investment returns are a different matter. They force you to put regular amounts into a pot that is generally outside your control, which cannot be tapped when needed and which is subject to rules that may be quite inappropriate in 40 years' time, when your savings are still trapped inside.

This drawback was illustrated by the £5 billion a year Budget grab. Millions



PERSONAL INVESTOR GRAHAM SEARJEANT

of people locked into pension plans now need individual advice on how much extra they would have to save to maintain their hopes for retirement.

When you retire, the proceeds of investment must eventually be converted into an annuity that dies with the named beneficiaries. That makes it an exceptionally inflexible vehicle for people's main savings and ensures that those savings cannot be passed on to future generations.

This basic package is so unattractive that few sensible folk, let alone the feckless, would sign up. To meet public policy objectives, exceptional incentives have long been offered. The main attraction has been the tax regime, which relieves contributions and investment returns, allowing savings to roll up before pensions are taxed as income. Employees usually have another huge incentive. Their employer makes a parallel contribution that cannot be taken as pay.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security

Secretary, says that the first objective of her pensions review is to establish a "sustainable consensus". The essential in any such consensus is for the three main parties to commit themselves to a stable regime of tax incentives.

No such consensus is available. The Chancellor is unlikely to restore the dividend credits he is abolishing. The Tories went into the last election with a plan to abolish tax relief on contributions, the bright idea of the new Shadow Chancellor. Barring big changes of heart, future savers can probably work out for themselves an unspoken consensus. Remaining tax breaks will be run down, much as tax reliefs for families or house purchase have been.

The alternative to a carrot is a stick. It is a fair bet that well-intentioned innovations Labour mulled over in opposition, such as replacing Serps with a bigger funded stakeholder pension and a scheme for those outside the labour market, will have to be forced on consumers. Employers would also be compelled to contribute. Both will deduct that funded pensions are now to become a tax like the state pension linked to National Insurance contributions. They will logically keep their commitment to a minimum and divert other savings to more flexible and attractive forms.

The likely upshot of reform will be to extend some funded provision to those who now lack it, but to cut pensions provision overall. This may be what the meddling elite has in mind. It is surely not the best way forward.

Who has emerged No 1 in Emerging Markets?

## MERCURY EMERGING MARKETS FUND

The award-winning Mercury Emerging Markets Fund is the top performer in its sector over two and three years. Anyone who invested

Emerging markets represent some of the world's fastest growing economies. Mercury has been

investing in them for many years, and we firmly believe

that their above-average growth is set to continue.

For further details about the Mercury Emerging

Markets Fund, contact your financial adviser, return

the coupon or call Mercury free, quoting the

reference below.

0800 882 884



To: Brochure Requests, Mercury Fund Managers Ltd, FREEPOST, KE4930, London EC4B 4DO. Please send me details of the Mercury Emerging Markets Fund. PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING USING BLOCK CAPITALS.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Forwards in full \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT

\*Source: Mirostat. All figures are to 1st July 1997 based on the selling price with net income reinvested. Ranking since launch. 2nd. Mirostat Unit Trust Emerging Markets Sector (excluding single country and regional funds). The value of an investment may fluctuate and is not guaranteed. Past performance is no guarantee of future performance. Please note that this is a high-risk fund and is therefore suitable only for those investors prepared to accept the above-average volatility and risk inherent in emerging markets investment. Changes in exchange rates may cause the value of an investment to fluctuate. This advertisement relates to the packaged products of, and is issued by, Mercury Fund Managers Ltd (regulated by IMFO and the Personal Investment Authority), the unit trust management arm of Mercury Asset Management plc (regulated by IMFO), 33 King William Street, London EC4R 9AS. For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded.



Gavin Lumsden and Adam Jones check out loans and the surge of interest in building societies

## Big scramble for a gamble

More than £1.8 billion was invested in building societies last month, the biggest inflow for more than a decade, as speculators rushed to take a gamble on the next demutualisation.

Apart from hoping for payouts, investors were betting on a rise in saving rates after last week's increase in mortgage interest rates. The Halifax delayed its loan rate rise for a week, but succumbed on Thursday. Its standard variable rate is now up 0.25 per cent at 8.2 per cent in line with the Abbey National, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Northern Rock, Alliance & Leicester and NatWest. Halifax borrowers with a £60,000 mortgage will now pay between £9 and £11.55 more a month.

The Halifax move prompted an immediate response from the Nationwide, which pushed its rate up 0.35 per cent to 7.85 per cent. Britain's largest building society had held off a move after the rate rise last month. Although keen to maintain a gap between itself and the banks it had found a 0.6 per cent differential an increasing strain.

These developments restored equilibrium to a market which has got used to the rule of thumb that says

mutuals offer better deals. With Chelsea Building Society adding 0.35 per cent to its variable rate this week there are now four large building societies at 7.95 per cent (Birmingham Midshires, Lambeth and Portman are the others). Some mutuals are to stay just below this although it makes little difference to their borrowers' pockets. The Scarborough, for instance, offers 7.94 per cent, a monthly saving of 46p if you have a £60,000 mortgage.

The Nationwide and Principality are at 7.25 and National Counties at 7.39. If you are looking for the lowest of the low try Penrith (01768 863 675), which has a 6.99 per cent variable rate but restricts loans to 75 per cent LTV (loan to value) for borrowers outside Cumbria, Staffordshire and Leicestershire.

Many borrowers do not pay the variable rate for long, preferring to fix their payments as soon as they can. With the prospect of further interest rate rises business in fixed deals is booming. However, Philip Cartwright, of London & Country, says: "Don't take the discount at face value. Look at what the underlying rate is and check if the lender has

consistently been below the Halifax." Flexible mortgages sound great but have yet to hit the big time with homeowners. These schemes allow borrowers to vary how much and when they pay back on the loan and draw extra money when needed. However, until now, they have failed to offer protection against rising interest rates, a serious drawback when the UK has had three rises since May and at least three more are expected by the year's end.

Scottish Widows Bank and John Charcol, the mortgage adviser, aim to change this. They have launched a flexible mortgage that promises to keep its rates between 6.5 and 8.3 per cent until September 24, 2000. Borrowers will split the mortgage into two loans, up to 80 per cent of the value of the property. The first is the base loan on which the regular monthly payments are set. Borrowers can pay extra money or take payment holidays of up to 12 months. Interest is calculated daily so borrowers will see the immediate effect of their payments.

On top of this they can have a flexible account up to £50,000. Interest is charged at the same rate as the base loan and money may be withdrawn in £1,000 lots with a chequebook. There are no redemption penalties, compulsory insurance, mortgage indemnity guarantees but there is a 0.4 per cent booking fee.

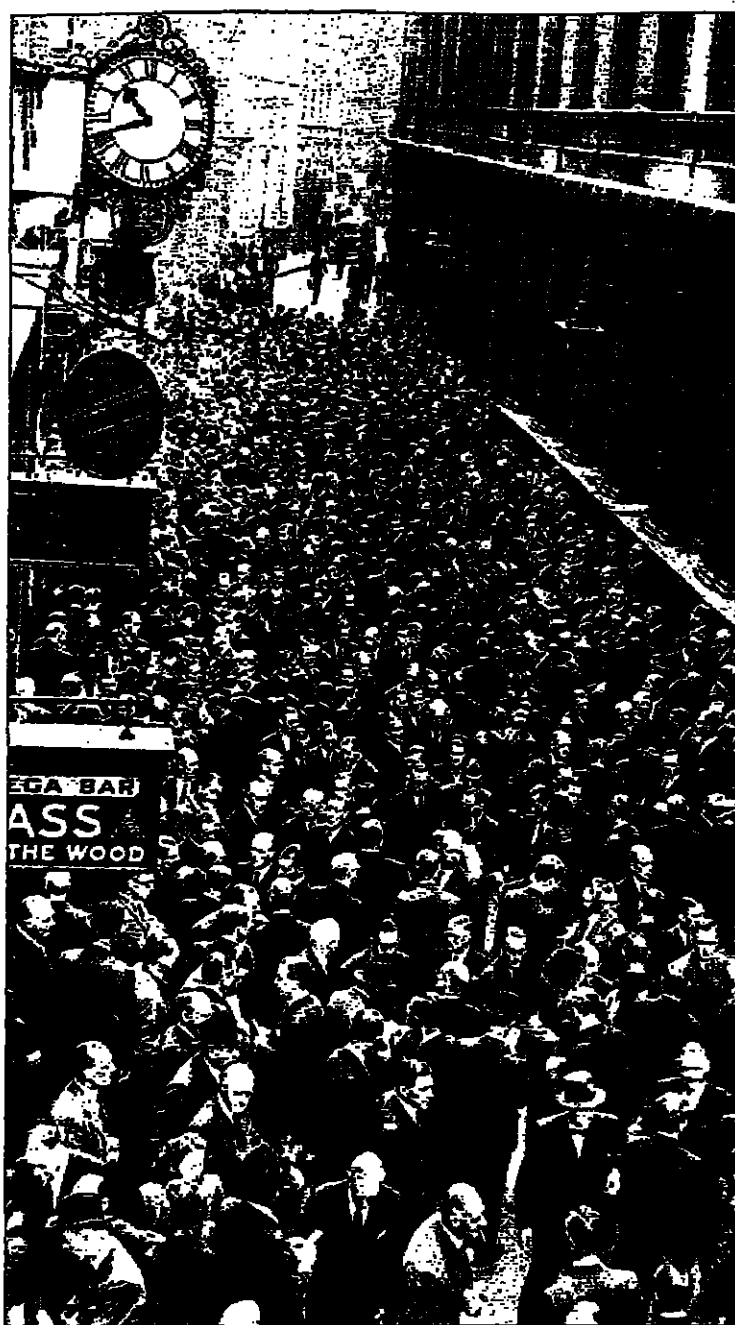
The Building Societies Association launched a scathing criticism of the windfall speculation that led to the massive £1.8 billion inflow last month. It described a "feeding frenzy" of carpetbaggers at some branches.

Although the momentum behind the Nationwide carpetbagging had seemed to sag with the increasingly erratic behaviour of its ringleader, Michael Hardern, a butler, the campaign to tear away its mutual status got a boost this week, with Nationwide saying it expected a high level of support for pro-demutualisation candidates in board elections.

If they are elected, the society is almost certain to convert to a bank or invite a takeover.

The Birmingham Midshires Building Society looks to be close to conversion, too. It has appointed JP Morgan, the corporate adviser, a tell-tale move. It could yield around £1,200 a head and carpetbaggers need £2,500 to invest.

Bradford & Bingley could be mugged by conversion zealots if Nationwide falls: £500 gets them a qualifying savings account. Britannia would be another target for the swarm, with £2,000 needed in a qualifying share account. The Yorkshire is another potential bid target. To gain membership of this society you must have £2,000 in a qualifying share account. To become a member of the Portman, you need £1,000.



Speculators have crowded into building societies in the hope of payouts

### BEST FIXED-RATE MORTGAGES

Lender	Rate	Scheme details	Redemption penalty	Fee
Principality 0800 454478	4.49%	2.88% dec-1.9.99	Rapey discount before 1.9.02	Nil 1
National Counties 01372 744155	5.64%	1.75% dec-1.8.99	90 days int in 3 yrs	£250 2
Nationwide 0800 302010	6.49%	Fixed for 2 years	4 mths int in yr 1, 3 mths int in yr 2	£295 3
Nationwide 0800 302010	7.29%	Fixed for 3 years	5 mths int in yr 1, 4 mths int in yr 2, 3 mths int in yr 3	£295 3
Principality 0800 454478	7.39%	Fixed to 30.6.02	180 days int-1.7.02	£195 4
Abbey National 0800 555100	7.98%	Fixed to 2.11.07	270 days int-2.11.07	£250 5

Notes: 1 BHC, purchases or remortgages, LTV 75%, reduced discount to 95% LTV, 2 Purchases or remortgages to 70% LTV, 3 Purchases only to 95% LTV, fee refunded on completion, 4 BHC, purchases or remortgages to 75% LTV, £500 cashback, 5 Purchases or remortgages to 95% LTV, BHC = Compulsory Buildings & Home Contents Insurance, LTV = Loan to Value ratio.

Source: London & Country Mortgages

## Boost for CMC borrowers

The Office of Fair Trading's crackdown on secondary mortgage lenders is the second piece of good news in a week for thousands of beleaguered borrowers with City Mortgage Corporation (CMC).

John Bridgeman, Director-General of the OFT, yesterday threatened to remove the licences of lenders, such as CMC, which use dual rates of interest and charge heavy redemption penalties based on the now infamous rule 78.

Two hundred families have had their homes repossessed by CMC in the past two years as their debts have escalated out of their control. Another 1,000 have experienced the trauma of being taken to court.

However, solicitors are hoping to turn the tables on CMC. They believe its practices constitute unfair terms and are not legally binding. At a public meeting at the House of Commons on Monday they announced plans to bring a class action against the lender in the High Court. This could pave the way for compensation claims from all 30,000 people who have taken out loans with CMC. This could cost the company and Cityscape, its US parent, millions of pounds.

One borrower, Valerie Algie, of Reading, wanted £5,000 to renovate her house. A representative of Charles Ashworth, one of CMC's most important brokers, convinced her to borrow £15,000 instead. Unsecured loans over this level are unregulated. Mrs Algie, who works in a supermarket, says she missed her first payment when she was off sick. She claims that CMC increased her monthly payments from £300 to £500. CMC denies the figures and says Mrs Algie originally asked for a £17,000 loan. It repossessed her house last October.

David Steene, CMC's managing director and a former Conservative councillor who gave £20,000 to the election campaign of William Hague for the Tory party leadership, dismisses the legal threat. He says that he welcomes new regulations and wants to hear from unhappy borrowers.

A glossy new newsletter tells borrowers that higher rates of interest will be charged only after three months of late payments.

The CMC Victims' Association can be reached on freephone 0500 404025.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

LOOKING  
FOR A PEP?

HERE'S THE  
BEST RETURN  
YOU'RE LIKELY  
TO MAKE...



Schroders

Are you looking for a PEP which can deliver you the highest returns?

If so, you can't afford to ignore Schroders. Over the years, thousands of investors have profited from our award-winning track record of consistently high performance.

Take our UK Enterprise Fund for example. Over 5 years, through a PEP, it has turned £6,000 into more than £14,500.\*

If you open a Schroder PEP you can also add or exchange any 'free' shares you receive from one of the Building Society share offers - and this is on top of your normal £6,000 allowance.

So call now or return the coupon below. Alternatively, contact your usual Financial Adviser. It could be the best investment decision you ever make.

0800 002 000  
Quoting ref 561

#### RETURN TODAY

TO: SCHRODERS,  
CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPT, 82561  
FREEPOST LON 7149, LONDON EC4B 4PD.  
Please send me my free copy of the Schroder PEP brochure.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth / /

From what source does your investment money usually come?

Salary ☐  
Retirement package ☐  
A switch from another investment ☐  
Other (please state): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Source: Midcap buying price to selling price, gross income reinvested from 1.7.92 to 1.7.97, £6,000 became £14,503.20.

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. The levels and bases of and rebates from taxation may change. Tax reliefs referred to are those currently available and their value depends on the circumstances of the individual investor.

Issued by Schroder Investment Management Limited, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EJ. Regulated by IMRO. www.schroders.com

To end up  
WITH A  
decent  
pension  
WHERE SHOULD YOU  
start?

HERE

With the index-tracking pension plan from Legal & General.  
A simple, no-obligation call is all it takes.

- Start from £50 a month
- 2-year satisfaction guarantee
- Low charges help increase your pension's potential
- Portable from job to job
- Flexible contributions
- Payment holidays\*



Call 800 - 800 weekdays and 9AM - 5PM weekends, or talk to your financial adviser.  
For your protection, calls will usually be recorded for quality assurance.

Take the FIRST STEPS to  
starting your PENSION

0500 65 65 65  
Please quote this reference in your call B10/D109

Please send me a personal illustration and information pack on the Legal & General Personal Pension Plan.

Title (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms): \_\_\_\_\_

Forename: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you: Self-employed ☐ Employed ☐ Unemployed ☐

I am/am not currently in an employer's pension scheme:

I plan to retire at: (50 to 75) Date of birth: / /

Initial contribution (Gross): £ \_\_\_\_\_ per month (min. £50)

£ \_\_\_\_\_ per annum (min. £500) £ \_\_\_\_\_ single (min. £2,000)

Income: £ \_\_\_\_\_ p.a. \*Delete as appropriate

Please post to Legal & General Pensions Plan, FREEPOST (SWC2006), Cardiff CF1 1YW. B10/D109

Further information on Legal & General products is available on our website: <http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk>  
Subject to Legal & General's agreement. The value of investments can go down as well as up. Here and there, we may tell you about our other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. It may be that you will wish to receive this material by email. Please contact us for more information. Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative of the Legal & General insurance group, members of which are authorised by the Financial Services Authority and regulated for the purposes of recommending, advising, and selling the insurance and investment products of the Legal & General group. All relevant disclosures are contained in the available on request. Legal & General Direct Limited, Registered in England No. 2702000. Registered Office: Pump House, 11-13 The Quadrant, London EC4A 3DF.



# Muted voices on mutuality

# We're with the Woolwich but where are the shares?

Another 74-year-old from

**Amanda Clough** wants to know which would be the best windfall holding to sell to help to finance a holiday

“Some of the shareholders are now pressing for compensation.”

A Woolwich member, based in Harrow, north London, wants to be compensated for the delays in sending out share certificates. "I am entitled to 450 free shares but have received no communication since January 1997. I rang the confidential information line on June 13 and was assured that the problem would be actioned. As nothing hap-

Paul Kavanagh, a partner with Killik & Co., another broking firm, said: "Norwich Union shares are worth holding on to, while it might be advisable to sell off one of the banking shares." He pointed out that Halifax shares had been valued at

Justin Urquhart Stewart, Barclays stockbrokers' managing director, said: "I think it is advisable to hold on to the Norwich Union shares. There are too many banks in this country. Alliance & Leicester and Halifax look too overvalued at this moment." He, too, advised selling Halifax shares.

# SNAP!

# The Virgin Persona Pension

**John Bridgeman –**  
Director General, Office of Fair Trading.  
Setting out the blueprint for a new style  
personal pension on 15th July 1997.

**If you're looking for  
tomorrow's pension today,  
simply give us a call on**

0645 95 95 95

**Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm**

**direct**  
personal financial service

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back all the money you invest. The basis of tax may change and the value of the tax benefit depends on how much tax you pay. For your security, all calls to Virgin Direct will be recorded and randomly monitored.

HENDERSON INVESTORS INVESTMENT TRUST SHARE PLAN

# Performance

**Why you can't ignore  
the big player in investment trusts.**

Whether you have £50 to invest or £50,000, you'll be looking for proven, long term investment performance.

This table shows how an investment of £1000

£1000 invested over 5 years	
Share Plan	£2379
FTSE All Share Index	£2096

in our Investment Trust Share Plan has fared over the last 5 years\*.

For a free brochure on our Share Plan scheme, cut the coupon, or call (at local rate). Get the big player, with over £16bn under management and administration, on your side.


0345 88 11 44  
(Quoting the reference "Share Plan 260")

To: **Investment Services, Henderson Investors, FREEPOST, Newbury RG13 1BR.** Please send the further details on Henderson Investors Investment Trust Share Plan.

Please stick the box at your desk when you receive information about this program. Fill in the following information:

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (initials) \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

 **Henderson**  
Investors

[illegible]



## The Baltimore Global PPP

It bled us dry but it's a perfect home. Now's the time to plan for those things you just can't predict. So I've invested in the Garmore Global PEP, with its 9 highly rated UK and international unit trusts which I can switch between free of charge. There's also no charge if I make a withdrawal or close the plan, and you can transfer an existing PEP from another plan manager into it. I chose to invest in the Garmore UK Capital Growth Fund. It's flexible: the manager is able to choose between blue chip and smaller companies whenever the best investment opportunities arise. And it's number 1 out of 163 funds in its sector with an increase of 31.7% since its launch in October 1996. Probably because Garmore maintain a financial outlook based upon a solid investment structure.

Call your Financial Adviser or call Gartmore free on 0800 289 336.  
E-mail: [helpline@gartmore.com](mailto:helpline@gartmore.com). Website: [www.iii.co.uk/gartmore](http://www.iii.co.uk/gartmore)

Source: Micallef - UK Equity Growth Sector Basis, offer to offer, net income reinvested as at 2nd June 1997. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Telephone calls may be recorded. Issued and approved by Gartmore Investment Limited (Gartmore's authorised unit trusts are managed by Gartmore Fund Managers Limited. Both companies are regulated by the IMLB) and the Personal Investment Authority and are members of the NatWest and Gartmore Marketing Group. Gartmore House, 16-18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8AJ.

# Home service lost

PELIONS  
PELIONS  
PELIONS  
POSTBAG

The big problem is that the paying out of child benefit and the keeping of contribution records are carried out by two separate offshoots of the DSS. The Benefits Agency pays out the child benefit. The Contributions Agency keeps the records and does the calculations.

**Women who stay at home to raise children and who claim child benefit are entitled to have state pension credits**

But no one seems to be sure who is ultimately responsible for getting the correct information into the system to calculate your pension. With HRP, it is vital that your child benefit claims are correctly recorded because this triggers

HRP and dictates how much pension you will get. What is clear is that the Benefits Agency destroys records, making it almost impossible to check back. The Contributions Agency can refuse to grant you HRP without

You claimed no child benefit for two years between 1984 and 1986 because you were abroad and this seems to be when things started to go wrong.

Neither the Benefits Agency nor the Contributions Agency will discuss your case directly. But now there could be some hope that your child benefit reference number itself demonstrates that you claimed the benefit before 1986. Apparently it is an old style number, which could back up your claim."

## Continued from page 29

law says that it has had difficulty getting the relevant investment performance information from third parties. The Personal Investment Authority has given similar

as acceptable by the ICS or investors.

ADAM JONES

[illegible]

*Do you have a Wothrich account? ☐ Do you have an existing TSB account? ☐ If yes, is it a savings account? ☐*  
*We'd like to contact you from time to time with details about services from TSB and other TSB group companies*  
*if we think they'd interest you. However, if you'd prefer not to be told about these services, please tick this box ☐.*  
 Send to: TSB PhoneBank, FREEPOST (RM6334), Glasgow G2 8RR

*To ensure security for our customers and staff and to help maintain service quality, some calls may be recorded and monitored.*

WTM197





Expert guidance is essential if you intend to negotiate the bewildering personal pensions maze successfully

Sara McConnell guides readers through the pension maze

The Government fulfilled another of its election pledges this week with the announcement of a wide-ranging pensions review.

However, the nine-point review did not put forward a cohesive strategy. It also did not rule out anything, including compulsory provision. And it did not comment on a three-volume report put out by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) looking at pensions. This suggested the encouragement of low-cost tracker funds for the mass market. The OFT concluded that "existing pensions are still failing to meet consumers' needs".

There is a growing consensus that people must be persuaded or even compelled to put more money into private pensions. But there is an equally strong consensus that this is impossible without introducing improved personal pensions.

John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, claims he does not want to alarm people with his criticisms. But this will do little to reassure holders of personal pension plans who have just been told what a poor investment they have made.

So is your pension a bad deal? How can you tell? If so, what can you do about it?

**Q** I'm thinking of taking out a personal pension. But now all this criticism is worrying me. Will I be ripped off?

**A** Not necessarily. There is a huge variation between the best and the worst pensions. Having a personal pension is not in itself a

## How to check out the plan

mistake. If you do not have access to an employer's scheme but want to build up a pension, a personal pension is an obvious choice. Of course you can invest elsewhere, but pensions have the advantage that you cannot be tempted to take out the money before you retire. They also still have generous tax relief. The trick is to pick the right one.

**Q** But how do I do that? I don't even understand the brochures.

**A** One way is to go to an independent financial adviser. Choose a firm that charges fees, rather than working on commission. The IFA should carry out a thorough review of your finances before recommending a plan.

Your local building society or bank branch will sell only its own pension plans, generally not among the best deals on the market. Insurance company salesmen are similarly limited. But you can also do some research yourself. Mike Wadsworth, of Watson Wyatt, the actuary, says there are three key measures to consider: charges, investment perfor-

mance and the company's administration.

**Q** How can I compare one company's charges with another?

**A** The best way is to get some quotations from three or four insurers, says Stephen Cave, of Moores Marr Bradley, an independent adviser. You can weed out the no-hopers by using regular surveys in reputable magazines such as *Money Management*.

All providers have to produce quotations in the key features document supplied to you, showing how their charges would cut investment returns. They have to use a standard investment return of 9 per cent but deduct their own charges so you can compare one with another. Look at the column on the right to see how much you are left with once charges have been deducted.

Companies deduct a large chunk of their charges at the beginning. With high charges you could see almost all your investment going in charges in the early years. Check how long it will take

before you get back more than you put in.

**Q** I don't know anything about investment. How do I measure it?

**A** Pensions are a long-term commitment so the key measure is consistency. There is a huge choice of funds in which you can invest your pension but you are likely to be offered either a with-profits fund or a managed unit-linked fund. Both invest primarily in the stock market in a range of shares. Check how the funds rate in investment league tables. Although the past is no guarantee for the future it gives you a guide. Think long term, at least five years. Do not be dazzled by brilliant short-term performance.

**Q** I've had my pension for three years but I feel I was pushed into it by the salesman and I'm not happy. Should I cut my losses and get out?

**A** Check your last statement. There should be two figures showing the amount your pension is worth and the amount you would get if you transferred the money. If your insurer is levying hefty charges, you may find your pension is not worth much because most of it will have gone to pay set-up costs. Your transfer value will be even less because the company will claw back its expenses.

Another alternative is not to put in any more money but to leave it invested in the fund. But charges will continue to eat into your money. Fixed monthly "policy fees" particularly erode small contributions.

60 DAY HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNT

60 DAY HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNT

"With the best rate of

"With the best rate of

7.2% gross p.a.

7.2% gross p.a.

on £10,000 plus access it's worth another look

on £10,000 plus access it's worth another look

Ross Kent - Head of Bank Products  
THE MAN FROM THE PRU.

Ross Kent - Head of Bank Products  
THE MAN FROM THE PRU.

Prudential's 60 Day Notice Account gives a better rate of interest for your £10,000 than any comparable account. What's more, you can access your savings without notice twice a year and without losing interest. We offer:

■ An excellent 6.2% gross p.a. for £5,000 - £9,999. Rising to 7.2% gross p.a. for £10,000 or more

■ Interest can be paid monthly

With Prudential's 60 Day Notice Account you get a better rate and:

■ You can access your savings without notice twice a year and without losing interest or your bonus

■ The convenience of saving by phone or post

Amount	Gross annual rate (including 1% bonus)
£5,000 - £9,999	6.2%
£10,000+	7.2%

For more details call

0800 000 222

8am - 10pm weekdays and 8am - 12 noon Saturdays. Or speak to your Prudential representative.

PRUDENTIAL

For more details call

0800 000 222

8am - 10pm weekdays and 8am - 12 noon Saturdays. Or speak to your Prudential representative.

PRUDENTIAL

Best rate position based on annual interest rate compared with all other onshore Instant Access and up to 90 day Notice Accounts. Source: Moneyfacts as at 16/7/97. The rates include a loyalty bonus of 1% gross p.a., calculated daily and paid annually on the anniversary date. This is paid provided the account is still open and in the preceding 12 months no more than two withdrawals have been made and the balance has not been less than £2,000. Interest will be calculated net of income tax, presently 20% (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), or subject to the required registration, gross. Tax legislation is subject to change. Rates are variable. Telephone calls may be monitored or recorded. Prudential Banking plc is registered in England and Wales. Registered Office: 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH. Registered number 2999842.

THE UK'S LEADING LOW-COST PEP

# YOU CAN'T BEAT IT.

# SO JOIN IT.

INITIAL CHARGE

0%

AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH

12%\*

Our Growth Fund leads the entire low-cost PEP market on performance over 2, 3, 5 and 10 years. Delivering a thumping 212% growth since 1987\* at an average annual tax-free return of 12% every single year since PEPs began. And all you pay on the way in is 0.5% Government Stamp Duty. Call us now for a fact pack, including details of our special offer on Windfall shares.

0800 829 100

http://www.prosper.co.uk

SAVE & PROSPER

DON'T JUST SAVE. SAVE AND PROSPER.

\*All figures are based on buying to selling price with gross income reinvested to 1.7.97. Five year performance to 1.7.97 is 190% (Source: Miroplac). The value of investments, and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested. Exchange rates may also affect performance. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. On 24.5.96 the investment objective of the fund (formerly known as Scotiabank) was broadened from investment in financial services to investment in any economic sector. Tax concessions can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. Save & Prosper Group is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and MIFID. We only advise on products and services offered by the Flemings and Save & Prosper Marketing Group.

1863/014

## The Index-Tracking PEP

WHAT MAKES LEGAL & GENERAL'S FTSE ALL-SHARE INDEX-TRACKING PEP THE BEST VALUE PEP OF ITS KIND ON THE MARKET?

A glance at the table will show that - since its launch just over 18 months ago - this Index-Tracking PEP from Legal & General has proved that it offers PEP investors unbeatable value for money.

It follows the FTSE All-Share Index. This index reflects the performance of the entire stockmarket, so it reduces the risk of being over-exposed to shares which under-perform and lessen your return. In fact, £6,000 invested in the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP at launch would now be worth £8,412\* compared to just £6,667\* in the average UK Income & Growth Trust.

NO initial charges

0.5% annual management charge

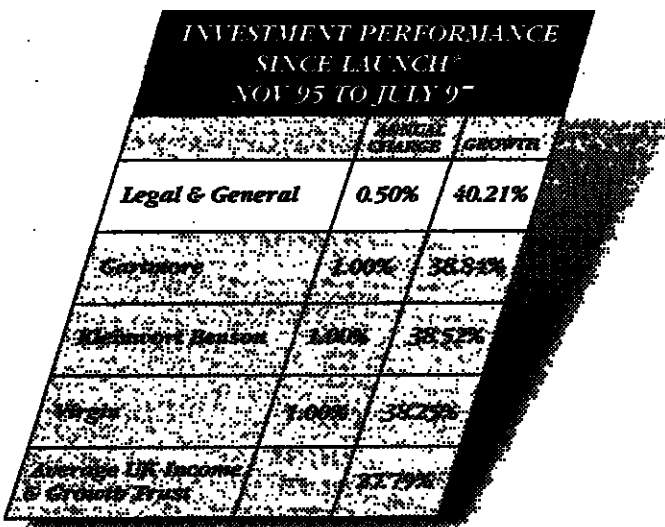
NO withdrawal fee

UNBEATABLE COSTS...

At just 0.5% p.a., you won't find a better value FTSE All-Share Index-Tracking PEP anywhere else. And there are still no initial charges or withdrawal fees to pay.

To find out more about the UK's best value FTSE All-Share Index-Tracking PEP, call now, or return the coupon opposite. Alternatively, you can contact us at <http://www.legaland-general.co.uk>

\*Source: Miroplac (2000), an office in London, based on all PEP charges, with gross income reinvested from 19.11.95, where savings of "0.5%" per annum performance is not significantly a result of lower performance. Both capital and income values can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. Tax concessions are subject to change and their value will depend on your circumstances. All comparisons of cost apply to PEPs on a like-for-like basis. Full details are available on request. All amounts are correct as at 19.11.97. Legal & General (UK) Limited is registered in England No. 2720454. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. (17) Representative of the Legal & General Investment Group, members of which are regulated by the Financial Services Authority and FSA for the purposes of any financial advice, including on and off the promotion and on other products being offered by Legal & General's name.



The FTSE All-Share Index-Tracking PEP that performs the best

(also costs the least)

TRANSFER YOUR WINDFALL SHARES FREE

Find out more now - Phone free 0500 11 66 22

FREEPHONE 8am TO 8pm WEEKDAYS 9am TO 5pm WEEKENDS PLEASE QUOTE REF. B4DL13

For your protection calls will usually be recorded and monitored.

Post to: Legal & General (Direct) Limited, FREEPOST SWC467, Court CF11YK  
Please send me full written details of the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) \_\_\_\_\_  
First name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Tel. No: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No: Work \_\_\_\_\_

If you already have any PEP investments, please tick here ☐ B4DL13

We may wish to contact you to make sure you are satisfied with your investment. If you do not wish us to contact you, please tick here ☐ B4DL13

We may wish to contact you to make sure you are satisfied with your investment. If you do not wish us to contact you, please tick here ☐ B4DL13

Legal & General Investment Management



Jill Insley looks at a complex scheme that tracks three major market indices

# Investment requiring 20/20 vision

After several years of strong growth in the United Kingdom and United States stock markets, some investors are wondering whether it is time to move their money elsewhere. Others are scared to sell up now in case they miss out on any further growth that the two markets produce.

Johnson Fry, the independent financial adviser, hopes to solve the dilemma with a new investment scheme called 20/20 Hindsight. But in the week that the Office of Fair Trading has called for simpler investment products, Johnson Fry has produced one of the most complicated yet seen by private investors.

The scheme aims to track the movement of three major indices — the S&P 500 in the US, the FTSE 100 in the UK and the Nikkei 300 in Japan. What makes the scheme much more unusual is the way that investors benefit from any rises in the three markets. Johnson Fry will apply the movement of the best-performing index to 50 per cent of the 20/20 investment, the movement of the second best-performing index to 30 per cent of the investment, and the movement of the third index to the remaining 20 per cent.

## HOOPER MISS

If one or more of the indices falls, this is subtracted from the upward movement in the other indices. But even if the total movement is negative, the investor will still get his or her original investment back after five and a half years.

Johnson Fry claims that this means investors will enjoy all the upside of a global stock market investment, without any of the downside risk.

However, Johnson Fry gives a warning that 20/20 Hindsight should be regarded as a fixed-term investment. Investors who encash their money before February 20, 2003, may not receive the full amount that was originally invested.

Investors will buy shares in 20/20 Hindsight, which is a close-ended investment company listed on the Irish Stock Exchange. Its European Union location means that investors can take advantage of a loophole in personal equity plan legislation to hold



Will investors' eyes, with Hindsight, focus on London, New York or Tokyo?

the shares in either a single company or general Pep.

Some independent financial advisers have recommended the scheme as a suitable pension holding for investors who are nearing retirement. Douglas Gardner, of Thomson Financial Planning Consultants, says that the shares

could be incorporated into self-invested or self-administered pension schemes. He says: "We recognise that there is no guarantee that stock markets are going to continue going up as they have done, and they might well come down. But the scheme is a good way of investing directly in equities

while providing a hedge against stock market falls."

However, Graham Hooper, of Chase de Vere Investments, is nervous about investing in the US and UK markets at their peak. "I also see no reason why Japan should start running away now. The Japanese Government has tried

everything to get the stock market going, with little success," he says.

The 20/20 Hindsight sales literature points out that the three markets have performed well over most of the five and a half year periods since 1970. But Mr Hooper adds: "There are periods of time when formulaic investments just don't work."

John Edwards, a consultant with Berry Birch & Noble, says that he has recommended Johnson Fry products to clients in the past, but has decided not to use 20/20 Hindsight. He says: "I thought it was ingenious, but rejected it on the grounds that it was so sophisticated. It would be difficult to explain and didn't have the outstanding attraction to make the effort worthwhile."

The fact that derivatives are used to produce the growth for 20/20 Hindsight could prove to be the final deterrent for many investors. Essentially, Johnson Fry is asking investors to place their faith in complex financial contracts that have left leading financial institutions floundering. The latest example was NatWest Bank, which lost £77 million — and a lot of credibility — on its derivatives deals.



## Shelter your windfall in a Pep for the best tax break

Act now on Woolwich and Norwich Union shares, Gavin Lumsden says

Woolwich customers who have safely received their allocation of shares have until August 17 to shelter their holding in a personal equity plan (Pep). For Norwich Union customers, the deadline runs out on July 26.

Under the Inland Revenue special concession for windfall shares, you are entitled to transfer your holding into a Pep at "zero value". This means that you can still invest your full £9,000 annual Pep allowance. Those who wish to use the concession must act within 42 days of the shares being issued.

By transferring your windfall into a Pep you protect it from income tax until 1999, when Budget changes to the Pep tax rules come into effect. Any gains will also escape capital gains tax, although very few windfall beneficiaries are likely to make profits of more than their £5,500 annual tax-free allowance. However, even if you intend to cash in the shares soon, it can be a worthwhile move, particularly if you had a large windfall.

You can choose between the Peps offered by Norwich Union and Woolwich and the large variety of plans being marketed by unit trust groups. For more information ring the Unit Trust Information Service on 0181-207 1361.

Norwich Union and Woolwich are both offering a single company Pep. Norwich Union is waiving the first year's annual management fee and

charging 0.5 per cent thereafter, up to a maximum £58.75. Buying and selling shares within the Pep costs 2 per cent of deals up to £500 and 0.5 per cent thereafter. By contrast the Woolwich single company Pep charges 1 per cent.

The Woolwich is also offering the UK Stockmarket Fund Pep. This is a general Pep for people who want to exchange their Woolwich shares for units in a fund investing in British blue chip companies. However, the Woolwich will take a 3 per cent slice of your windfall before it invests. It then charges 1.25 per cent a year. If you opted to receive a Woolwich share certificate, thinking that you would sell your shares immediately but have been disappointed by the fall in the share price, you can change your mind and transfer into the Woolwich Pep facility at no cost.

Those who are interested in fund management Peps should pause if they wish to sell their shares in a hurry. Pep managers impose a levy if you sell shares without reinvesting in their funds. Fidelity charges £35 each time this is done. But there are loopholes: Mercury Asset Management levies 1 per cent if you transfer into its windfall Pep and sell out later. However, this charge is made only if the sale causes the Pep to be closed. A spokesman confirmed an investor could sell all but one share without the penalty being made.

## IMPRESSIVE FROM A DISTANCE...

Against the broad landscape of offshore investments Perpetual stands out for the consistency of its investment performance.

## ...BUT EVEN BETTER CLOSER UP.

But take a closer look and you'll discover that this reputation is built on a simple investment philosophy.

Above all we value individualism, unhindered by corporate investment policies or restrictions. We believe in respecting our fund advisers' proven talents by giving them the freedom to invest in their chosen markets according to their preferred methods and style.

At the same time, we carefully monitor their performance to ensure they maintain the investment standards our offshore investors expect.

OFFSHORE FUND PERFORMANCE TO 1ST JULY 1997				
	SINCE LAUNCH % CHANGE	POSITION IN SECTOR	5 YEARS % CHANGE	FUND RESEARCH RATINGS
International Growth	+690.9	3 out of 18	+99.9	AAA
Emerging Companies	+764.9	1 out of 28	+119.5	AAA
American Growth	+1239.8	1 out of 12	+131.2	AA
Far Eastern Growth	+469.1	1 out of 13	+142.5	AAA
Japanese Growth	+132.2	17 out of 74	+16.6	AA
European Growth	+264.6	3 out of 5	+108.4	—
UK Growth	+395.6	1 out of 26	+110.6	AAA
Asian Smaller Markets	+109.0	12 out of 82	—	AA
Latin American Growth	+56.3	13 out of 25	—	—

We concentrate on providing a range of funds with a wide geographical choice of quality investments, from international funds offering a broad spread of risk to funds specialising in a specific region or country.

The success of this approach speaks for itself. Seven out of our nine offshore funds are in the top 25% of their sectors for their performance since launch, four are sector leaders and four have been awarded a top AAA rating by qualitative

fund management analysts.

Fund Research Limited.

offshore investments?

For more information on our range of offshore funds and investment products, call our Customer Services Department on +44 (0)1534 607660 or send a fax on +44 (0)1534 38918. Alternatively, talk to your Financial Adviser or complete the coupon.

To: Perpetual Fund Management (Jersey) Limited, PO Box 459, d'Hauterville Chambers, Seale Street, St Helier, Jersey, JE4 8WS, Channel Islands. Please send me details on Perpetual's range of offshore funds. Important: Please print clearly.

Print Name (Mr/Ms/Ms)  
Address

Postcode  
TIMC 19/07/97

## Perpetual

Statistics are to 1st July 1997 and are on an offer-to-offer, US Dollar basis, inclusive of reinvested income, net of withholding taxes (source: Micropal). Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up (this may partly be a result of exchange rate fluctuations), and you may not get back the amount invested. Perpetual has expressed its own views and opinions in this advertisement and these may be subject to change. This advertisement does not constitute an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer is not authorised or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. Persons into whose possession this advertisement may come are required by the Manager to inform themselves of and to comply with any relevant restrictions.

## WAKE UP YOUR FRIENDS IN LITTLE SNORING

GUARANTEED CHEAPER CALL BILLS OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK.

Right now, Mercury is up to 33% cheaper than BT for national calls. In fact, if you don't save money on your call bill (even if you have PremierLine and Friends & Family), we'll refund double the difference. No, you're not dreaming.

Mercury UK-Call  
FreeCall 0500 500 366

Prices and savings correct at 30/06/97, compared against BT's basic rates for landline & mobile. Savings available for a quarterly fee of £2.75 (inc. VAT). Price Pledge terms apply against BT's basic rates and discount schemes, excluding line rental and temporary promotional offers. Not available on Calling Card or business packages.



# Regular income and capital growth make an odd couple

The abolition  
of dividend tax  
credit will hit  
ordinary  
taxpayers, says  
Gavin Lumsden

Investors, large and small, are still coming to terms with the new era ushered in by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, in his Budget three weeks ago. Each day new repercussions emerge of his single-most important measure, the abolition of the dividend tax credit.

By abolishing tax credits on dividends, Mr Brown reduced the amount of income all shareholders could receive from equities by 20 per cent. Pension funds and companies have had to start paying the tax immediately, while private investors and personal equity plan holders, who have enjoyed a decade of tax breaks, have been given a two-year reprieve.

At a stroke, Mr Brown polarised the entire investment world into two groups, with opposing aims, those seeking to grow their capital and those wanting a regular income from their assets. While the former's best bet over the long term remains to stay in equities, the situation is more complex for income seekers. By taxing the income from equities, the Chancellor has made gilts and bonds more attractive than ever before. Gilts and bonds are basically IOUs issued by the Government and companies that pay fixed levels of interest to investors who lend them money. At the end of the loan they return the money to investors. The income, or yield, from gilts and bonds was untouched by the Chancellor and is one of the reasons they are coming back in favour. Any capital growth is also free of capital gains tax.

This is a sea change for investors, likely to reverse decades of investor behaviour. Unlike their European and American counterparts, UK investors have traditionally shied away from bonds as they have seen their returns annihilated by inflation. We asked a number of analysts what strategies they are now adopting to cope with the new environment.

Bill Mott, manager of the Credit Suisse Income unit trust, says that over the next year he plans to increase his investment in income yielding bonds and convertibles to 25 per cent of his portfolio. The remainder will go in shares in companies he thinks will provide capital growth. He recommends investors do the same. "Instead of leaving £50,000 in an equity income fund put £20,000 in a growth fund and £30,000 in gilts and bonds," Dr Mott says the abolition of the



Fund managers, like *The Odd Couple*, are having to reach a fresh accommodation

dividend tax credit is part of the Labour Government's strategy to create a long-term investment culture in the UK. "The Government's philosophy is that companies should reinvest in their business, not issue dividends to investors. They want investors to invest long term and get their growth free of capital gains tax in return. By definition, income investors, who are buying a stock because it is temporarily at a 25 per cent yield, are value investors with no long-term interest in the company. The Government wants them to look to gilts and bonds instead."

Figures from the authoritative BZW Equity Gilt study suggest that the Chancellor may get his way. After years of underperformance, gilts have achieved a remarkable recovery in the 1990s and have started to attract investors.

Inflation is the enemy of all fixed-interest instruments, as gilts and bonds are sometimes called. In the postwar period inflation was high and decimated the value of the unchanging income investors in gilts and bonds received.

By contrast, shares combined good capital growth and rising income in the form of dividends. For example, investors who bought £100 of shares in 1945 and consistently reinvested the dividends in more shares would have held £1.37 by 1990, after the rise in the cost of living is taken into account. The £100 of gilts would have slumped to £57, a dismal performance. In the past seven years, however, the picture has changed as inflation has stayed consistently low. Although shares have continued their turbo-charged

run, doubling in value, gilts have also picked up speed, with the £57 worth £99 by last year.

Pension funds, those investment behemoths into which millions contribute their earnings, have played their part in this renaissance. As more of their members approach retirement, an increasing number of funds have turned to the capital security offered by bonds. This year's Pensions Act, which imposes strict minimum funding requirements on pension funds, has encouraged even more buying of gilts and bonds.

The long-term outlook for the sector is good as many believe the newly independent Bank of England will fulfil its mission of controlling inflation. However, in the short term, interest rates are set to rise, making cash deposits more and more competitive against gilts and bonds. Another factor income-

seekers should consider is that as more investors buy, the price of gilts and bonds will inevitably rise. This is the opposite of what they want because it means their fixed income, as a proportion of the price they pay, falls.

David Kauders, of Kauders Portfolio Management, suggests investors have a six-month window of opportunity before yields start to fall. "In the past few years you have been able to get 7 to 8 per cent annual yields on gilts and bonds, 2 to 3 per cent higher than cash. This premium is starting to disappear, but if you buy now you can lock into these higher rates for years ahead. People who bought gilts in spring 1990 are still getting 12 to 13 per cent income rolling in." Mr Kauders advises older and wealthy clients, who have about £200,000-£500,000 to invest for their retirement. With this he would buy five government securities to give an average annual income of 7 per cent. Yields above this level increase the risk to investor's capital, he cautions.

Alternatively, income investors could consider corporate bond Peps. These can not invest in gilts but do buy into bonds, preference shares and convertibles issued by companies. The income on these investments will remain free of tax after 1999, although the future of the Pep shelter itself is unknown after then.

Ian Millward, of Chase de Vere, recommends three corporate bonds: Commercial Union Monthly Income, Abertawe Fixed Interest and Henderson Preference & Bond. All invest in a wide range of instruments and have established good track records. Henderson is the cheapest with a 1.5 per cent initial and 0.75 per cent annual management charge. The Abertawe fund is unusual for taking its 1.25 per cent annual management charge from capital rather than from the income it generates, Mr Millward says. This increases the risk that you may not get all the money you put into it.

Corporate bond Peps have proved popular with investors since their arrival in 1995.

Although they are promoted as a secure method of earning income, there are risks and disadvantages to this form of investment. A useful rule of thumb to remember is the higher the income, the greater the potential risk to your capital. In spite of their name, corporate bond Peps can invest in a wide variety of assets. Those investing in preference shares, which guarantee to pay a dividend to their holders, and convertibles, bonds that can be turned into shares, are generally considered to involve more risk. Although the income can be good, the prospect for further income and capital growth is poor. If this is what you want an equity income fund is still attractive, even after the Budget changes.

Your  
Life Assurance  
can be cheaper

Policy  
Choice  
Direct

the financial people  
who let you choose

Our Unique Service is FREE

- Our FREE GUIDE gives you the facts
- You compare the rates of the top companies
- We arrange your policy
- We refund your first two months' premium

0500 813913

Not all insurance policies and investment options are available to everyone so if you have any doubt about suitability seek expert advice. We do not give financial advice. Policy Choice Direct (PDC) is an appointed representative of PDC Financial which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for investment business.

## Simply Postal

NOTICE TO INVESTORS  
Increased rates from 19th July 1997

### POSTAL 180

min	up to	to under	to under	to under	to under
£40,000	£20,000	£10,000	£5,000	£2,500	£1,000
7.25%	7.10%	6.85%	2.00%	5.80%	1.60%

### POSTAL 30

min	up to	to under	to under	to under	to under
£40,000	£20,000	£10,000	£5,000	£2,500	£1,000
7.00%	6.85%	6.60%	6.45%	5.80%	4.64%

- All transactions are dealt with by post
- The minimum applies to both the initial investment and balance to be maintained
- Rates subject to variation throughout period of investment and interest will be payable net of tax at 20% or subject to the required certification, gross
- For full details plus terms and conditions

FREEPHONE  
0800 32 66 32

THE POST ONLY DIVISION OF

Lambeth Building Society  
SIMPLY POSTAL, FREEPOST, SE1 2BR

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

## the ultimate Tracking PEP?

NORWICH UNION'S GLOBAL TRACKING PEP

No initial charge

No exit charge

Lowest charges of 0.25%

No extra charge for monthly savings

- 25% invested internationally
- 75% invested in the UK
- Monthly savings from only £50 per month
- Lump sum investments from £1000

0500 813913 (local call rates), quoting the reference below, complete the coupon below in block capitals (no stamp required) to: NORWICH UNION, FREEPOST ANG 4247, Norwich NR1 3BR.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ref: TIT28  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime tel no: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening tel no: \_\_\_\_\_  
Data that you provide may be used by Norwich Union group companies, your financial adviser or other relevant organisations for marketing purposes such as market research and contacting you regarding your future insurance and investment needs.  
For your protection all telephone calls will be recorded. The value of and income from PEPs may fall and you may not get back the amount invested. Funds invested abroad may alter with exchange rate fluctuations. Information/advice will only relate to Norwich Union products. † Except the buying to selling spread of 0.5%.

Norwich Union Portfolio Services Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Regulated by IMRO

### THE WEEK IN MONEY

The present system of pension provision was condemned as being expensive and inadequate by the Office of Fair Trading on Tuesday. The findings of a ten-month inquiry said that many personal pension plans represented poor value and company schemes based on final salary discriminated against early leavers.

Investors were urged by Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, to steer clear of "easy money" schemes

amid a sharp rise in the level of company investigations. It also emerged that the number of insider-dealing inspections dealt with by DTI investigators rose from 13 to 21 last year.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, announced a review of pension provision with the aim of helping low-paid workers. The basic state pension and Serps will be covered in the review, which will focus on plans for a

"stakeholder" second pension and a separate citizenship pension. Women who spend several years out of work would be entitled to pension credits under the proposals.

The Halifax increased its standard variable rate on Thursday by 0.25 per cent to 8.2 per cent, in line with last week's rise in base rates. Nationwide increased its rate by 0.35 per cent to 7.85 per cent, its first rise in two months.

### CASHING IN YOUR ENDOWMENT?

IT'S EASY TO GET MORE

We regularly pay up to 30% MORE\* than the surrender value with profits endowment and whole life policies.

Life Company Offered £16,311  
Policy Portfolio Price £21,100

Don't lose out - contact Policy Portfolio Pro today. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

TEL: 0181 343 4567 Lines Open 24 Hours - 7 Days a week  
Gadd House, Arcadia Avenue, London N2 2JU

A small ad for the savings account with BIG RETURNS.

Legal & General

CALL 0500 11 12 00

Lines are open from 9am - 5pm Mon-Fri and 10am - 5pm weekends. Policyholders may not receive a full rate of interest. Legal & General Park Limited. Please quote ref: B073 D12.



# PENSIONS MADE SIMPLE

24 hours a day..... 7 days a week..... Now you can pick up the phone and get pensions information or advice and even set up a plan, quickly and without fuss.

0345 6789 10

or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded. Information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products. Issued by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, a mutual company. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

WAKE UP  
YOUR  
FRIENDS  
IN  
LITTLE  
SNORING.



## NOTICE TO WINDFALL SHAREHOLDERS:

# Why you should still PEP your windfall shares with M&G

The M&G Windfall PEP provides you with an ideal tax free shelter for all your windfall shares including Norwich Union and Woolwich. With M&G, one of the largest PEP providers, you can also benefit from low charges and a high degree of flexibility.

## What The M&G Windfall PEP means to you:

- you can hold all windfall shares
- you pay no initial charge and one of the lowest annual charges in the market (£8 + VAT per windfall)
- all your windfall shares can be held on their own without any obligation to invest further cash or buy any other M&G products

Following the recent Budget, a PEP still provides you with the ability to save within a tax free environment – so apply for your PEP today!

For further information on The M&G Windfall PEP, return this coupon to: The M&G Group, Bristol BS38 7ET, or call 0345 321 008. Lines are open 24 hours, 7 days a week.

NO SALESMAN WILL CALL. You should contact your independent financial adviser if you have one before investing. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up. The value to you of the tax benefits will depend on your own circumstances. The Chancellor has announced that there will be changes to the tax regime with effect from 6th April 1998.

INITIALS	SURNAME
ADDRESS	
POSTCODE	LC-DCSC

If you don't want to complete the paperwork, we'll do it for you!

Call 0345 711 222

Calls are charged at local rates. Lines are open 24 hours, 7 days a week. 10am-1pm Saturday and 12noon-5pm Sunday. Alternatively, for a free information pack, please complete the coupon below.

**M&G**

**WINDFALL PEP**

M&G do not offer investment advice or offer any recommendations regarding investments. We only market the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group.

Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited, (regulated by the Financial Services Authority) Registered Address: M&G House, Victoria Road, Chislehurst CH1 1PS. Registered in England No. 023091. We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will personally tell you about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated M&G Companies.

Tick this box ☐ if you would prefer not to receive the information

<http://www.mg.co.uk/mg>

## Nathan Yates looks at the tax breaks available to investors outside the Revenue net

# Test the water before you buy

Offshore savings and investment schemes with their generous tax breaks are infinitely beguiling. But many hang back from taking advantage of these concessions as they worry about the security of their cash and the ire of the Inland Revenue. Paul Freeman, of Coopers & Lybrand, the accountancy firm, points out: "The tax advantages may look attractive but, historically, charges on many offshore products tend to be higher, though they are starting to come down." Performance of offshore funds may also be inferior and it is certainly more difficult to monitor. The net effect of these factors can offset the tax benefits. To help you towards a better understanding of the offshore investment scene, our special two-page report covers the schemes and their advantages and disadvantages. Below we answer your questions on the tax rules.

**Q Can offshore havens help me to avoid tax?**

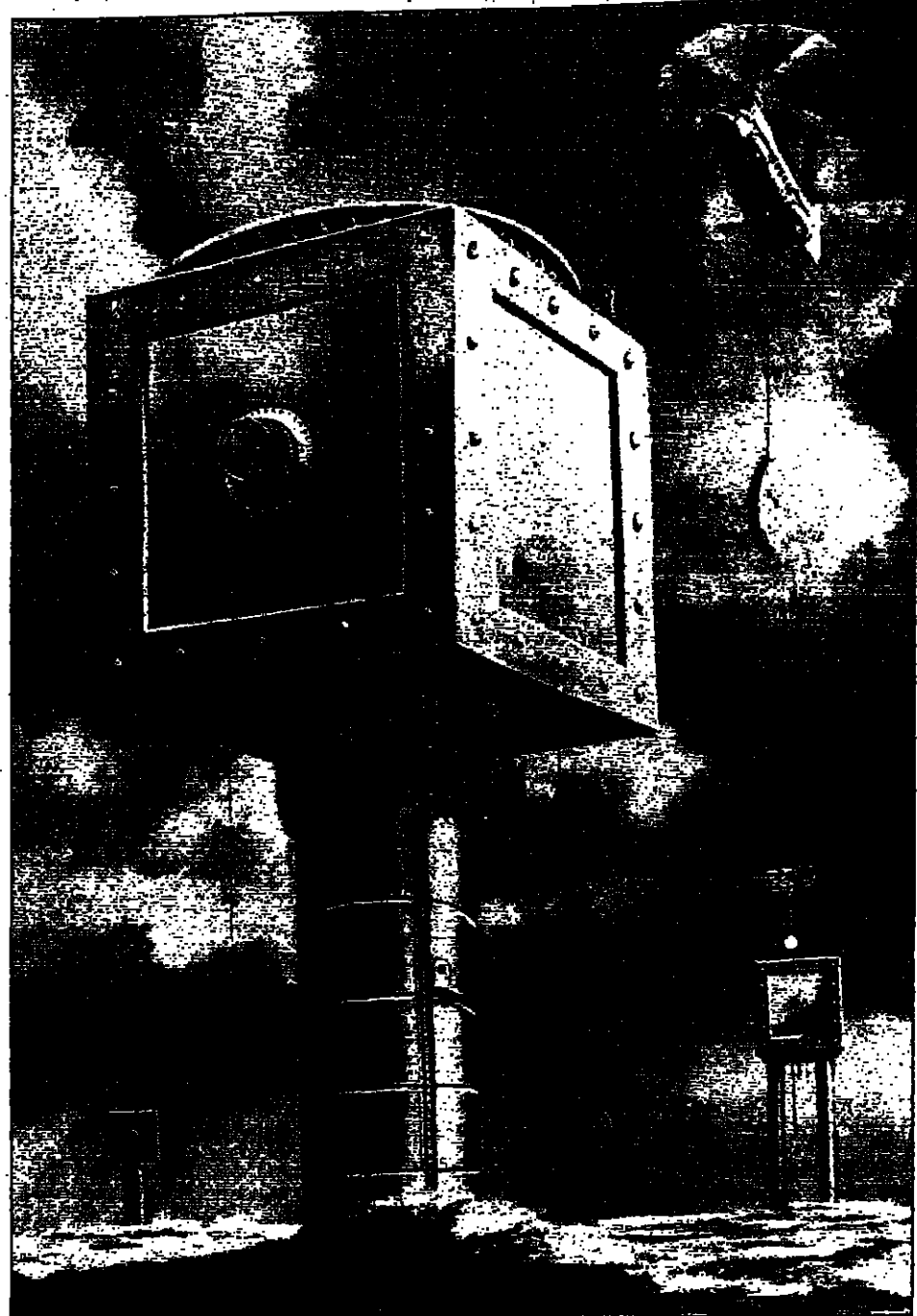
**A** Putting your money offshore will not automatically mean that it escapes the taxman's clutches. As a general rule, all of a British taxpayer's income is liable to UK tax and must be declared, no matter where in the world it is earned. However, there are important weaknesses in the Inland Revenue's armoury. Tax is not paid on offshore

income until it enters this country. An offshore investment fund, for example, will accumulate free of tax until you decide to sell. If you are planning to retire abroad, you may eventually relinquish British resident status. In this case, you will be able to sell your holdings and the accumulated profits will escape UK tax.

Alternatively, you may be a higher-rate taxpayer whose income is likely to drop into the standard rate band after retirement. In this case, using offshore investments to defer your tax bill until after your income falls could cut the payment on returns from 40 to 23 per cent.

Another way in which offshore income can be realised free of tax is by transferring it to a dependent. Typically, a parent could set up a trust in a tax haven such as Guernsey, which would pay out an income to a child during its years at university. Provided this income was below the personal tax allowance of £4,045 per single adult, no tax would be paid.

The offshore tax system is highly complex, and the Inland Revenue is sometimes reluctant to let individuals escape. "There are plenty of areas of offshore tax open to Revenue challenge, and my advice is to get hold of a good accountant to make yourself as secure as possible," says David Kilshaw of KPMG.



**Q Can I still benefit from going offshore if the Inland Revenue insists on taxing me?**

**A** Even if income from offshore investments must be brought into Britain in taxable form, there are still advantages to be gained. Because no tax is paid while your money is overseas, most offshore investment funds do not pay out dividends, but "roll up" or reinvest income. Investments that are allowed to accumulate gross grow faster than those that have to pay tax on returns. Since most offshore funds can invest in the same stocks as UK trusts, in theory you can hold an identical portfolio but add extra growth.

**Q Can I make use of offshore havens if I have only a small amount to invest?**

**A** Offshore centres are widely regarded as the preserve of the rich, but this is misleading. In fact, offshore investment can start with a building society account. These are offered by high street names such as Abbey National, Alliance & Leicester, the Halifax and the Woolwich. Interest is paid free of income tax, but once it is declared by the bank or building society, it becomes liable for UK tax and

has to be declared on your tax return. The advantage of these accounts is that saving rates can be higher than those onshore. UK insurance companies also have offshore operations offering investment bonds and life policies, which can be used to shelter capital from onshore taxes.

**Q Will my money be safe if I put it offshore?**

**A** Many offshore investments are as safe as their UK equivalents. In the case of building societies or insurance companies, there is little difference in security between an account in a company's offshore subsidiary and another at a mainland branch. However, savers should note that an offshore account does not confer the same membership rights as one based in Britain, and offshore customers may find themselves left out of demutualisation windfalls.

Offshore investment funds may also be as safe as onshore unit or investment trusts, but there are exceptions. The Securities and Investment Board (SIB) offers guidelines to help sift these out. Investors who wish to be sure they are buying a product that meets British standards can restrict their holdings to companies "recognised" by the SIB. These are regulated locally, but are

judged to be as well-controlled as funds in the UK, and many funds in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Bermuda are included in this category. However, investors should be aware that the safety net is less broad offshore than it is at home. The Investor Compensation Scheme, the last-ditch resource if matters go wrong in the UK, is not available for most offshore investors.

**Q Can people living outside the UK benefit from offshore holdings?**

**A** Those living abroad can place their money in offshore havens and obtain the same tax advantages as UK residents. However, in some countries there are exchange controls that limit the outflow of capital. Before the end of apartheid, there were strict exchange controls in South Africa, and British people living there found it difficult to get their money out of the country. South African law has been liberalised to the extent that non-residents no longer find their investments restricted. However, those who become classified as residents are still limited to a £25,000 per year investment in other countries. If you live overseas, it is advisable to check whether there are exchange controls in place.

# A little more time a lot more return

It's about time

If you're looking for that extra interest and are thinking of investing £1,000 or more you couldn't pick a better time than now.

The Bristol & West is offering a Year Plus Bond that matures on 18th November 1998 at a stunning 7.25% gross p.a. But the offer is limited to a strictly first come, first served basis. By investing your money for a few months more, the interest rate we pay is much higher than you would expect on a one year bond. Compare us with some of our competitors.

CORRECT AS AT 16 JULY 1997	GROSS PA £1,000	GROSS PA £5,000	GROSS PA £10,000	GROSS PA £25,000
BRISTOL & WEST YEAR PLUS BOND (Matures 18th November 1998)	7.25%	7.25%	7.25%	7.25%
HALIFAX 1 YEAR GUARANTEED RESERVE	N/A	6.85%	7.10%	7.10%
MIDLAND HIGH INTEREST DEPOSIT BOND ACCOUNT	N/A	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%
ABBEY NATIONAL 1 YEAR FIXED OPTION BOND	N/A	6.35%	6.55%	6.65%
BARCLAY FIXED RATE SAVINGS BOND 1 YEAR	N/A	6.40%	6.40%	6.40%

Source: Money Mailer and Moneyfacts as at 16/07/97

So, if you want that bit more from your investment, call in at your local branch, phone free on 0800 20 21 21 for details, or complete the coupon now and enclose it with your cheque.

For an Application Pack, call in at your local Bristol & West branch or telephone free

**0800 20 21 21**

24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK. QUOTE REF: AJ1907.

**BRISTOL & WEST**

BRISTOL & WEST

The coupon version of the Year Plus Bond will not qualify for any distribution under the proposed transfer of the Society's business to Bank of Ireland Group. There is now a share version available. If you are an existing shareholding member, before either selling or transferring funds from an existing share class of account, please refer to the "Share to your Questions" letter which you have been sent in relation to the proposed transfer to Bank of Ireland Group. Alternatively you may phone the information office on 0800 886371.

Interest rates of interest do not take account of deductions of income tax. If you are eligible to receive your interest without deduction of tax you should register on Inland Revenue form R85 which is available in all the Society's branches. Interest rates shown are net of 20% income tax. Interest is credited or paid out at the discretion of the Society and is subject to the terms and conditions of the account. Withdrawals of capital from the Year Plus Bond are not permitted. Bristol & West Building Society is a member of the Building Societies Association and of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme, and subscribes to the Code of Banking Practice. Bristol & West Building Society, 20 Box 27, Broad Quay, Bristol, BS99 7AS.

## THE BRISTOL & WEST YEAR PLUS BOND

**7.25%**

GROSS PA  
FIXED RATE

STRICTLY LIMITED OFFER  
MINIMUM BALANCE £1,000

ANNUAL INTEREST		
BALANCE	GROSS PA	NET PA
£1,000	7.25%	5.80%
£1,000,000		

MONTHLY INTEREST		
BALANCE	GROSS PA	NET PA
£1,000	7.02%	5.62%
£1,000,000		

If you are an existing Qualifying Investing Member of the Society, please complete Section A of this coupon.

**A** My/our account number is: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I/we would like to open a Year Plus Bond and enclose a personal cheque for £..... (minimum balance £1,000).

☐ I/we would like my/our interest paid: Monthly: ☐ On maturity: ☐

☐ Please send me/us more information on the Year Plus Bond.

If you are not an existing Member of the Society, please complete Section B.

**B** ☐ I/we would like to open a Year Plus Bond and enclose a personal cheque for £..... (minimum balance £1,000).

☐ I/we would like my/our interest paid: Monthly: ☐ On maturity: ☐

☐ Please send me/us more information on the Year Plus Bond.

To open your deposit account by post please complete this coupon and enclose it with your personal cheque made payable to "Bristol & West Building Society" followed by your name(s) and crossed "account payee" and confirmation of identity in the form of a current Council Tax demand or an original bank statement or society bill (which is less than three months old and confirms your address, which we will print to you). "Personal cheques" means a cheque drawn on your own personal account. Third Party cheques are not acceptable.

NAME (MR/MRS/MS/MISS) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_

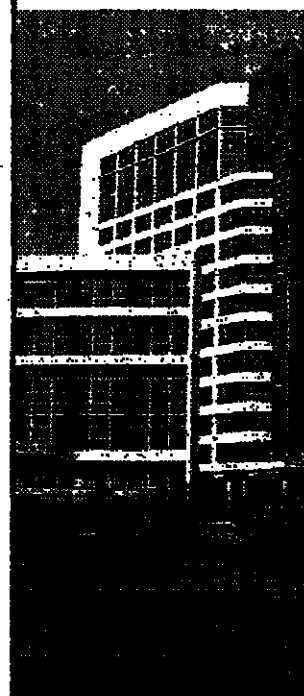
WORK \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE NOTE: You will open interest free for the first 12 months of your deposit or if you are transferring from an existing rate account, from the date of transfer. Interest will only be paid on your account after the first 12 months have elapsed and interest before your account can be accepted.

Please send to: The Year Plus Bond, Bristol & West Building Society, FREEPOST AB55312, Bedford, MK42 7BR.

## Discover Gibraltar

Historically recognised for its strategic position, today Gibraltar's strategic importance is associated with its reputation and ranking as one of the finest, fastest growing and well regulated offshore centres in the world.



Its financial and commercial infrastructure has been developed to meet the needs of new enterprises seeking a low cost European operation. It is equipped to cater for the establishment of international business in these areas: financial services, trading, light manufacturing, shipping and related facilities.

### Still need convincing?

- Starting currency and English language
- No Value Added Tax
- Economic stability
- Strong legal and judicial system
- Multiple taxation advantages
- A comprehensive banking network
- Freedom from exchange controls

Further particulars can be obtained from:

Department of Trade & Industry, Suite 711, Raffles Place, Singapore. Telephone: (65) 52052. Facsimile: (65) 71406.

London office: 179 Strand, London WC2R 1EH. Telephone: 0171 836 0777. Facsimile: 0171 240 6612. E-Mail: gblondon@aol.com

THE MEETING PLACE OF CONTINENTS

fish  
the

inland route  
higher interest

75%  
THE ADVANTAGE OF IN  
INTEREST RATES

INTERNATIONAL  
NATIONAL







# How to use your home for capital

IF YOU are in your seventies or eighties and seeking to raise additional income or capital, home income plans may provide the answer. Age Concern has published its 1997-98 edition of *Using Your Home As Capital: a guide to raising cash from the value of your home*, priced £4.95. The handbook offers advice and examines the safeguards that exist to protect older people. It is available from bookshops or Age Concern (0181-679 8000).

The Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (Opra) has issued a new guide to help pension scheme trustees to understand their role within the new regulatory framework for occupational pension schemes. It explains the basic principles of pension scheme trusteeship covering many of the legal requirements with which trustees must now comply. Copies may be obtained from Opra (01273 627600).

A new Internet version of Datastream/ICV's MarketEye equity data and news service for private investors with an interest in the UK markets is now available on [www.market-eye.co.uk](http://www.market-eye.co.uk). Investors can browse the MarketEye website to receive an in-

vestment snapshot of more than 2,600 companies as well as viewing real-time prices. MarketEye Internet Investor is free while MarketEye Internet Premium will be subscription only.

With the introduction of Jobseeker's Allowance, the unemployed have to meet stricter job-seeking rules and 700,000 long-term unemployed will find themselves referred to compulsory schemes or losing benefit. Two books have been produced that will help to guide those affected through the maze of new legal regulations. *The Unemployment and Training Rights Handbook* is priced at £9.95, and *Guide to Training & Benefits for Young People* is priced at £5.95. Both can be bought together at a cost of £15.95, including p&p, from the Unemployment Unit, 322 St John Street, London EC1V 4NT.

The book aimed at helping children to manage money (Weekend Money, July 12) is *Kid's Guide to Making Money and Keeping It!* by Judy Bastyr, published by Bloomsbury Children's Books, £4.99.

LIZANNE ROSE

## GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

### ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at July 19, 1997

Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.20
10,000	AIG Life	6.45
20,000	AIG Life	6.45
50,000	AIG Life	6.55
2 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.60
5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.40
10,000	AIG Life	6.45
50,000	AIG Life	6.65
3 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.65
3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
20,000	GE Fin Assur	6.55
50,000	GE Fin Assur	6.65
4 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	6.15
3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	6.25
3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.60

Sources: Chamberlain & Deane 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

## SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405080	Inst Access	Instant	£1	6.15 Y/y
Cheltenham & Gloucester 0800 742437	Inst Transfer	Instant	£1,000	6.50 Y/y
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	Postal	Postal	£2,500	6.70 Y/y
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	Direct Access	Postal	£10,000	7.00 Y/y

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 9564422	Postal Post	30 day P	£5,000	6.95 Y/y
Nottingham BS 0115 9564422	Postal Post	30 day P	£10,000	7.05 Y/y
Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Postal 120 Day	120 day	£5,000	7.15 Y/y
Coventry BS 0245 685522	Fxd Inc Bond 2	31.8.00	£10,000	7.60 F/y/y

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fxd+leader a/c	5 year	£8,575	7.55 F/y/y
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1850	Premier+leader	5 year	£9,000	7.45 Y/y
Principality BS 01222 344188	5 year	5 year	£500	7.15 Y/y
Universal BS 0800 281496	5 year	5 year	£1,000	7.10 Y/y

## CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%

## PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

Account	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3 yrs with insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	12.90%N	£114.29
Direct Line 0181 680 8966	13.90%N	£112.07
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%	£114.95

N.B. A = Minimum age 22 years. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lender's existing customers. B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System. F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable). H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged. N = Introductory rate for a limited period. P = By Post only. C = No interest-free period.

\* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING.

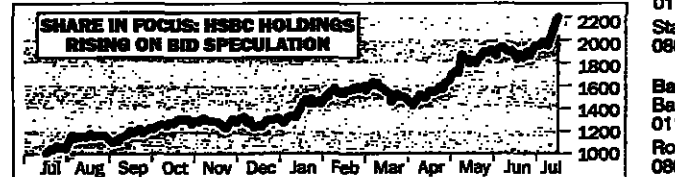
Sources: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (1997 500 677)

## PIBS

Fixed Rate	Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	118.91	7.852	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.825%	142.84	8.150	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	159.42	8.155	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	164.00	8.156	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	158.65	8.194	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	156.11	7.705	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	143.12	8.210	100.25	1,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	164.80	8.166	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	132.07	8.106	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	155.60	8.114	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	155.60	8.114	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	158.65	8.115	100.48	1,000

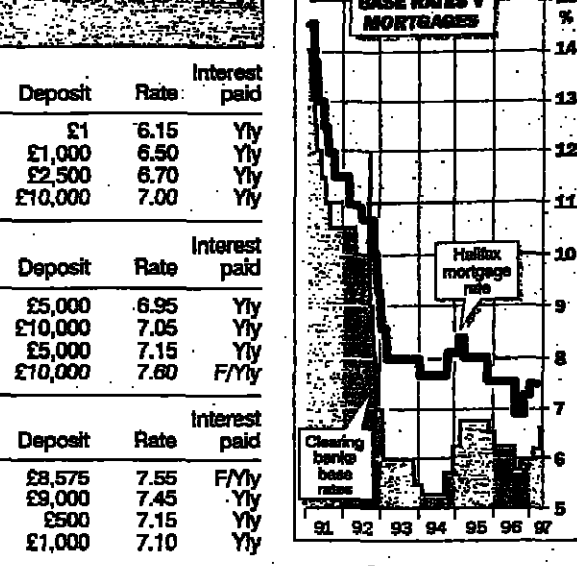
Floating Rate	Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03) 9.04083%		115.00	100.00	1,000	
First Nat (22/09-20/03) 9.12031%		105.00	100.00	1,000	

PIBS = Permanent Interest Bearing Shares. Source: AMRO Home-Gearing - 0171 601 0101

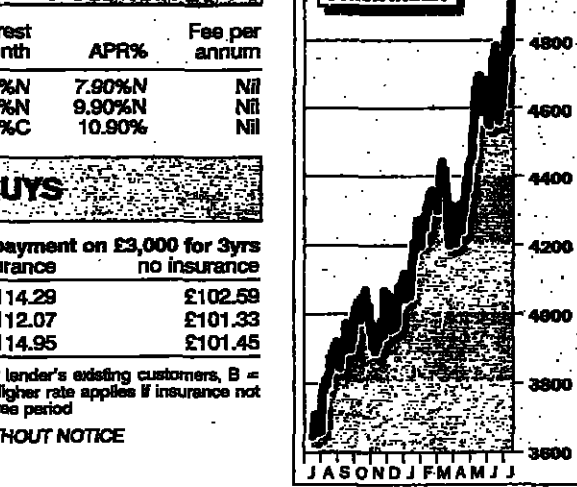


SHARE IN FOCUS: HSBG HOLDINGS RISING ON BID SPECULATION

## BASE RATES V MORTGAGES



## FTSE 100 PRICE INDEX



## LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies	5.25	£15k+	85	2.10% discount for 2 years
Derbyshire	5.20	£20k+	80	2.75% disc to 1.8.99
Northbrook	5.24	£25k+	90	Fixed to 1.10.99
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc-6 mths
11189 510100	4.95	£150-250k	90	3% disc-6 mths
Royal Bank of Scot	4.95	£150-250k	90	3% disc-6 mths
0800 121121				2.3.98

## LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies	0.95	£30-100k	95	6.99% disc-6 mths
Derbyshire	0.75	£25-150k	75	2% disc-6 mths
Northbrook	1.49	£200k+	80	6% disc-1.9.98
0800 216121				2.50% disc-1.9.99
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc-6 mths
11189 510100	4.95	£150-250k	90	3% disc-6 mths
Royal Bank of Scot	4.95	£150-250k	90	3% disc-6 mths
0800 121121				2.3.98

## BASE RATES V MORTGAGES

Gross rate	At tax rates 20% 40%	Maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c	1.20	1.20	10-10,000**	0845 845000
Investment A/c	4.75	3.80	20-500**	0845 845000
Income Bond	6.00	4.80	3,602,000-25,000**	0845 845000
First Opt Bonds	6.25	5.00	3,751,000-20,000**	0845 845000
4th Issue Carth + 5.35			100-10,000	0845 845000
Children's Bond	6.75		25-1,000	0845 845000
Gerr Ext Rate	3.51			0845 845000
Capital Bonds + 8.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	0845 845000
10th Index Link	2.50		100-10,000	0845 845000
Pension Bonds 5.5 + 7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000	0845 845000

\* Best ETO £140 p/a of int tax free, net rates for up to £100. \*\* Unlimited additional funds for investment proceeds. \* 10% free. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.

\* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year. \* Rates quoted are for 1 year.



## WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

## Travel insurance for grey pilgrims

From Miss M. J. L. Jenner  
Sir, I read your article on holiday insurance (June 28) with great interest as a friend, aged 74, and I, 67, are using our Eurostar offer tickets from The Times next month for a three-night/four-day Paris jaunt, and I have been asking down the high street for insurance quotes, which ranged from £16.50 to a staggering £59 at Thomas Cook!

Insurance companies are probably reluctant to admit to being on to a good thing, but I do wonder whether from your statistical knowledge you find the heavy weighting against over-65s justifiable. While the aged section of the population as a whole may not be a good insurance risk, my observation suggests that those who are nervous about their blood pressure or foreign ways either go to Bournemouth or stay at home. The wanderers are usually fit, experienced, resourceful and adequately funded. We do not lie under a tropical sun for ten hours, leave our valuables in hotel dormitories, or get drunk in

Travellers are so vulnerable at your age... you must admit?



waterfront night clubs. Is a 70-year-old enjoying her book and view of Etna in a shaded hotel garden really more likely to come to grief than a stressed-out overweight City worker of 50 trying to prove that he's still up with the lads? Other forms of insurance frequently acknowledge the fact that elderly people are

generally more careful of their possessions and prudent in their behaviour than their juniors. I think that a campaign on behalf of the grey band of pilgrims is overdue! Yours faithfully, M. JENNER, 173 Farmaby Road, Bromley, Kent.

## Consumers' champion lacking

From Mr S. Bracken

Sir, Your report in the business section (July 10) that Co-Op Insurance has one of the worst records for compensating its victims of personal pensions mis-selling, must be viewed with open disbelief by most of your readers. It is, as a co-operative, supposed to be the champion of the consumer. If you also reflect on the fact that a recently imposed restructuring has led to sackings and widespread resignations among the salesforce, and very expensive litigation, one begins to question whether protestations that it has no plans to demutualise have much credibility for it is acting as if that has already happened. One of the main reasons co-operatives were set up in the first place was to prevent the lamentable manner in which it now appears to treat customers and employees. Yours faithfully, SYDNEY BRACKEN, Goldings, 6 Clearwood, Dilston Marsh, Westbury, Wiltshire.

## Lost pennies

From Mrs K. E. Myers  
Sir, In company with J. R. Thompson, (Weekend Money Letters, July 5), I experienced the tax inspector's inclusion of pence, which worked to my disadvantage.

More sinister, however, was the computer "mistake" in a simple subtraction, where 2p was "lost". Computers, we know, do not make mistakes. So who was benefiting from this, and possibly thousands of other amounts of 2p? The taxpayer is exhorted to be honest, why not our masters? Yours faithfully, K. MYERS, 18 Town Avenue, York.

## Pensions and non-earning spouses

From Mr J. Trayner

Sir, The proposal by the Association of British Insurers that non-earning spouses should be allowed to contribute to a pension should be rejected by the Government. It would not help those who have the greatest pension need, but would simply give a further tax break to the better off.

Does the ABI seriously expect someone on say £15,000 and struggling with a mortgage to be able to make significant contributions on behalf of their partner? On the other hand, it would be an extremely attractive proposition for someone earning £100,000 to pay maximum

contributions for their partner and get 40 per cent tax relief on them.

There is no mystery about having sufficient income in retirement, all you need to do is save enough money while you are working. The problem comes when there isn't much money to invest. This point is often overlooked by pension reformers, whose well-meaning proposals would simply mean that more help was channelled to those who need it least.

If reform is to be of any value it must encourage those who are currently least able to make pension provision to do so. At the same time, it must avoid giving more help to those who are already able to make ample provision. Yours faithfully, JOHN TRAYNER, 21 Audley Close, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

## Penalty area

From Mr R. J. Tarrant

Sir, Like Dr P. Brooks (Weekend Money Letters, July 12), I too, have experienced the mercenary lash of Lloyds Bank in its levying of interest on overdrafts.

My monthly statement showed that for one day I had been overdrawn a little less than £10 (my limit was £250), but in consequence the penalty of £8 was incurred.

Having been a customer for the past 45 years with a blameless account record, I immediately paid a personal visit to my branch; the young assistant at inquiries could not take any immediate positive action as the accounts manager was away for a week, and his deputy had no authority to act in such a matter. But would I like her to "slot me in" to his diary so that I could discuss my personal financial position upon his return?

My letter awaiting his return was explosive and brought a ready apology and cancellation of the charge, with the mitigation that the computerised operation was programmed to act upon any overdraft. Yours faithfully, R. TARRANT, 104 Long Road, Cambridge.

## Our PEP will bend over backwards for you

However you look at it, our investment trust PEP gives you flexibility:

- > Tax free returns from a choice of nine trusts
- > Invest for income, growth – or both
- > No initial charge. Low annual charge†
- > Choice of investment methods – lump sums or regular savings
- > Free share exchange

## Martin Currie PEP



For more details on our investment trust PEP send the coupon to Martin Currie, FREEPOST 960, Edinburgh EH1 2ZX. (Stock capital).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

Call 0500 61 62 65

WARNING: Please remember that past performance is no guide to the future. Market and currency movements may cause the value of shares, and the income from them, to fall as well as rise and you may get back less than you invested when you decide to sell your shares. † NOTE: The only cost on purchases is stamp duty of 0.5% and the market spread between buying and selling prices. Investment trusts also pay management charges and administration expenses. Tax relief on PEPs is not guaranteed and may be changed; their value will depend upon individual circumstances. Martin Currie Investment Management Limited, Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2BS. Regulated by IMRO.

## CGT ALLOWANCES JUNE 1997

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in June 1997

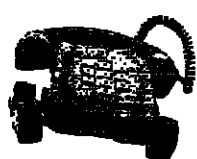
Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
January	-	0.907	0.814	0.727	0.636	0.575	0.525	0.419
February	-	0.898	0.806	0.719	0.630	0.569	0.519	0.409
March	0.983	0.895	0.800	0.697	0.628	0.568	0.513	0.402
April	0.944	0.869	0.777	0.682	0.613	0.547	0.489	0.378
May	0.930	0.861	0.770	0.654	0.610	0.546	0.483	0.370
June	0.924	0.856	0.768	0.651	0.611	0.546	0.477	0.365
July	0.924	0.846	0.768	0.654	0.615	0.547	0.476	0.364
August	0.923	0.838	0.751	0.649	0.610	0.543	0.460	0.350
September	0.924	0.830	0.748	0.650	0.602	0.538	0.453	0.351
October	0.915	0.824	0.737	0.648	0.600	0.531	0.438	0.340
November	0.905	0.817	0.732	0.642	0.586	0.523	0.432	0.329
December	0.909	0.813	0.733	0.640	0.581	0.525	0.428	0.326
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	
January	0.318	0.210	0.162	0.142	0.115	0.079	0.049	0.020
February	0.310	0.203	0.156	0.135	0.108	0.072	0.044	0.016
March	0.297	0.199	0.152	0.131	0.105	0.068	0.040	0.014
April	0.259	0.185	0.135	0.120	0.092	0.057	0.032	0.008
May	0.248	0.180	0.131	0.116	0.088	0.053	0.030	0.004
June	0.243	0.174	0.131	0.117	0.088	0.051	0.029	
July	0.242	0.177	0.132	0.119	0.084	0.052	0.033	
August	0.230	0.174	0.134	0.115	0.088	0.051	0.029	
September	0.218	0.170	0.130	0.110	0.086	0.046	0.024	
October	0.209	0.166	0.126	0.111	0.085	0.051	0.024	
November	0.212	0.162	0.127	0.112	0.084	0.051	0.023	
December	0.212	0.161	0.131	0.110	0.079	0.045	0.020	

The RI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

## DIRECT LINE RATES

SAVINGS RATES	
Direct Line Instant Access Account	
BALANCE	ANNUAL GROSS RATE
£1 - £4,999	5.15%
£5,000 - £9,999	5.30%
£10,000 - £24,999	6.15%
£25,000 - £49,999	6.25%
£50,000 - £99,999	6.50%
£100,000+	6.60%
MORTGAGE RATE	
Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate	
VARIABLE RATE	7.04%
APR	7.2%

All rates correct as 8th July 1997.



DIRECT LINE  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

0181 649 9099 MORTGAGES  
0181 667 1121 SAVINGS

A Royal Bank of Scotland company.  
Source: Direct Line Financial Services. For further information about either of the Direct Line products listed above, please phone the appropriate number above quoting ref. TTB13

Mortgages and savings provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SL. For savings the gross rate is the net paid without deduction of income tax and is based on annual payment of interest. For mortgages the interest rate is the rate payable on the loan and is subject to the terms of a first legal charge. Standard Variable – Standard over the property will be required. Direct Line mortgages from £20,000 to £200,000 are available for up to 25 years. Other subject to means. All rates quoted above are variable. Questions available on request. Offer subject to means. All rates quoted above are variable.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.  
For your added security telephone calls may be recorded and the recording kept secure. Direct Line and the red telephone on which are trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with its permission.

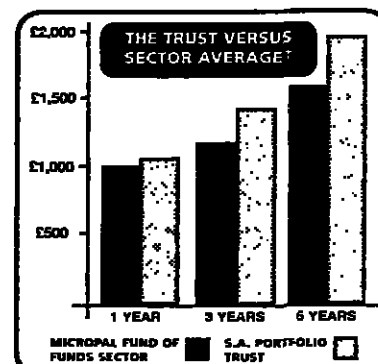
سنة 1 من المال

invest  
on-line  
0500 100 333

Unit trusts offer you an easy way of investing in the stock market. Your money is pooled with that of other investors and used to buy units. Highly skilled fund managers invest in a wide spread of companies and make investment decisions on behalf of all the "unit-holders" in the trust.

Gerbera is a marketing name for the Sun Alliance Portfolio Trust, which invests in a selected portfolio of units, usually in other Sun Alliance and Royal Trusts covering both UK and international markets. The Trust aims to achieve medium to long term capital growth.

Portfolio Trust has an outstanding track record, with growth of 95.16% over the five years to 26.9%.



Put another way, £1,000 invested at launch in 1988 would today be worth £2,514\*, though past performance is no guarantee of future performance. The minimum investment is £500.

Invest On-line is the direct investment arm of Royal & Sun Alliance and offers a straightforward and convenient means of investing. Our friendly and knowledgeable team are on hand 7 days a week, providing all the information you might need to make the right investment decision.

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT GERBERA CALL FREE ON  
**0500 100 333**  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 8AM-10PM

Invest On-line, FREEPOST 3479, Reading, Berkshire RG10 9ZZ.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms... Forename \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Lost all his customers to cancer

Chris



He'd built up his business from nothing. Then he contracted cancer. He survived. Only to helplessly watch his business go under.

This can happen every year to thousands of self-employed people who suffer a critical illness and survive.



Abbey Life's Critical Illness Cover gives you the protection you need. We'll give you a large cash sum if you're diagnosed, or suffer from a serious illness. And you can use the money any way you want. It could even save your business.

Apply now and we'll send you a Which? Guide to Health absolutely free.

Abbey Life

We'll give you the money to live on. Call 0800 20 20 40

Return to Abbey Life, PO Box 61, Freeport NWS 907, London, NW1 0YP. Reference CIC/A16

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms other \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Tel No (line code) \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND ME MY FREE WHICH? HEALTH GUIDE. (SPECIFY VERSION REQUIRED.) FEMALE ☐ MALE ☐

We may send you information about other products and services offered by Abbey Life Marketing Group. If you would prefer not to receive this, please delete this paragraph. Abbey Life Insurance Company Limited. Registered office: 20 Bank Street, Birmingham, B2 5AB. Registered in England No. 20353. Abbey Life Insurance Company Limited is regulated by the Financial Services Authority and is a member of the FSC.



**INTERNAL**



مكتبة دار الأهل











CRICKET: DAY OF OBSCURE RECORDS FOR TOILING HAMPSHIRE BATSMEN

# Aymes checks Surrey's advance

By Simon Wilde

GUILDFORD (third day of four): Hampshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 53 runs ahead of Surrey

HAMPSHIRE have had some pretty miserable days this season and, for a long time, yesterday promised to rank among the blackest. By 4.45pm they were 71 for seven in their second innings, following on 174 behind, and had lost 12 wickets in three hours' play, an hour having been lost to a midday shower.

At that point, though, the Mir Hyde side of their personality slipped away and up popped Dr Jekyll. For the rest of the day, they fought tooth and nail to stay in the game, principally through an eighth-wicket partnership of 123 between Adrian Aymes and Simon Renshaw, both of whom — remarkably — recorded season's best scores for the second time in the day.

When they came together, Surrey could be forgiven for letting their focus slip, so feeble was the resistance that they had met. Their fielding became lax and their bowlers went through the motions, but a slow pitch remained basically sound and, once their eyes were in, Aymes and Renshaw made batting look easy again and Adam Hollis, the Surrey captain, was forced to shuffle his bowlers.

Eventually, and much to Surrey's relief, Hollis had Renshaw leg-before for 56, but Milburn kept Aymes company until the close, at which stage Hampshire were 227 for eight, 53 ahead. Surrey should still win, but Milburn can bat and Aymes, unbeaten on 83 after three hours, will relish extending their discomfort. Aymes had provided almost



Stewart carries the scars of war yesterday, but is confident of playing in the fourth Test match next week

solitary resistance when Hampshire lost their five remaining first-innings wickets earlier in the day, batting 2½ hours for 45 before being dismissed. So poorly did the Hampshire top order bat that second time around that he was back at the crease within 90 minutes, the scoreboard reading 24 for five.

Credit for this must go to

Martin Bicknell, who produced a spell of four for two in 25 balls, but, well as he bowled, Hampshire gave him a helping hand. Hayden had one of his aberrations, padding up to his second ball, and James repeated the error to a lavish inswinger. Laney, loosely aiming an off drive, played into his stumps.

Most remarkable, though,

was the performance of Stephenson, the Hampshire captain, who, reports suggest, is feeling the pressure of his job. Given a reprieve before he had scored, he seemed intent on hitting his way out of trouble, with predictable results. Having lashed two fours through the covers, Tudor fed him a short ball which he hooked into the hands of long leg.

A good day for Aymes, Hampshire's wicketkeeper, was the reverse for Surrey's. Stewart taking a blow in the face an hour into the day, a ball from Salisbury flicking up off Renshaw's pad and gashing him under the right eye. He is confident of being fit for the fourth Test match next week, but did not keep again. Butcher taking his place.

## Robinson adds light relief to a slow day

By Richard Hobson

OLD TRAFFORD (third day of four): Sussex, with six second-innings wickets in hand, need 104 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Lancashire

CRANES have been installed at Old Trafford to hoist floodlights over the stands for the day-night Roses match next Monday. Their presence is proof of the initiatives that are being taken to woo new spectators to the sport.

The contest yesterday would have put any newcomer off for life. Sussex played the better cricket, but, despite fielding lethargically, Lancashire remain strongly positioned to secure their third successive championship win.

Following on 254 behind, Sussex at least applied themselves with more purpose than in their first innings. Bill Athey, in particular, was at his stubborn best in grinding out a half-century.

Nine years after his last appearance for England, he remains one of the most obstinate batsmen in the country. He was not off the mark until his fortieth delivery and was missed by Atherton at backward short leg after dashing along to two. Yet, in conditions that were beginning to assist the spinners — so much so that Atherton bowled leg breaks for the first time this season — Athey's technique held firm.

The search for disbelief when he drove expansively at Yates to be bowled between bat and pad five minutes before the close. Earlier, Rao and Lenham had fallen in successive overs, the former to a splendid leg-side catch by Hegg, standing back to Gallian, while Taylor went attempting to steer Yates past slip.

Watkinson accounted for three of the five Sussex wickets at the end of the first innings, though Austin was responsible for the removal of Newell for 74. Drakes perished attempting to counter-attack, but by far the most interesting — and amusing — innings was played by Robinson, the archetypal rabbit, who smote a career-best 27. He was rewarded by being cast as nightwatchman in the second innings.

## Smith and Young expose deception

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

CHELTONHAM (third day of four): Gloucestershire (24pts) beat Derbyshire (4) by an innings and 35 runs

FOR much of an overcast morning, Derbyshire showed sufficient resolve to suggest that they might take this match well into its final day. It was a brief deception. By the time that the sun came out, an hour after lunch, this lovely ground was deserted.

It was appropriate that the two men who dominated the game, Mike Smith and Shaun Young, should bring about its abrupt end. It was equally fitting that Derbyshire should surrender their last four wickets for four runs, as their cricket here has been abysmal.

An honourable exception was Kim Barnett, who rose above his personal conflict with the club to perform noble service. He made almost half of the first-innings runs and, yesterday, was six short of a deserved century when the fall of his wicket effectively signalled the end.

Derbyshire are badly in need of cheer, so the news that Dominic Cork is accelerating his comeback will be especially welcome. Only five weeks after a groin operation

thought likely to keep him out for the season, Cork plans to play in a second-team fixture on Monday and is hoping to win a place in the quarter-final of the NatWest Trophy next week, as a specialist batsman.

He can hardly fare worse than some who played here. The fourth-wicket stand of 121 between Barnett and Vandrova was no more than an inconvenience to the home side and Young, despite being bowled sparingly due to a hamstring problem, dispatched Barnett and Clarke in successive balls and almost bowled Krikken for a hat-trick. When Vandrova was well caught at second slip, Young had taken three for four, and only some defiant blows from DeFreitas delayed the inevitable.

Smith returned to take three of the last four wickets and complete match figures of ten for 106. His next first-class match should be the Headingley Test. Gloucestershire, meanwhile, remain among the leaders, but it is a mystery why the first game of the Cheltenham Festival, played on one of the truest pitches in England, has now been over before tea on the third day for three successive years.

## Scarborough far from fair for irate Boon

SCARBOROUGH (third day of four): Yorkshire (24pts) beat Durham (4) by an innings and 56 runs

DAVID BYAS, the Yorkshire captain, was not making any apologies yesterday after a pitch tailored to his specifications had left Scarborough, his own club, without any cricket on what should have been one of the big days of their famous festival (Pat Gibson writes).

Durham had been beaten by lunchtime on what their captain, David Boon, called the most extraordinary pitch he had seen in 20 years in the game. It was thickly grassed in the middle but bare at the ends, and Boon said: "It is to the benefit of nobody in the long term. It gives the bowlers a false sense of their worth and undermines the batsmen's confidence."

Byas countered: "I am not saying that this is the way forward for English cricket,

but it is the way for us to play county cricket here. All years I have been playing for Yorkshire, people have been telling me that we would never get results at Scarborough, but we have proved otherwise in the past two seasons."

Yorkshire were hoist by their own petard the first time that they tried the two-tone pitch last year, Caddick bowling Somerset to victory. Yorkshire demolished Nottinghamshire later in the summer, though, and now that Durham have gone the same way, Sussex can expect a similar surface when they visit here next month.

Durham needed 159 to make Yorkshire bat again with only five wickets left. Betts, with 35, and Boiling, with 40, his highest championship score, put up a better fight than some of the batsmen and, in the end, occasional bowlers, McGrath and Lehmann, completed the job.

## Leicestershire drawn into gambling game

By Jack Bailey

CANTERBURY (third day of four): Leicestershire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 345 runs to beat Kent

A DAY of praiseworthy endeavour from both teams, to create something of this rain-affected match, ended with less being achieved on the field than in the pavilion. The machinations of the captains resulted in agreement by Steve Marsh, the Kent captain, not to

enforce the follow-on if James Whitaker declared, which he did, after batting for 40 overs and when Leicestershire had scored 160 for four.

This left them the small matter of 338 runs behind Kent's first innings — Marsh having declared at the overnight 593 for eight — or still 189 short of the follow-on figure. Then Marsh declared a second time after facing all of five overs, leaving Leicestershire finally to score 365 from a likely 105 overs. It is a run chase weighted towards Kent, as it should be. Without

Kent's declarations, Leicestershire were on a hiding to nothing.

Leicestershire have now lost more than 1,450 overs to the weather, have drawn all their matches except against Hampshire, which they won, and are short of points with which to defend their title. For them, almost any gamble was worth the candle.

Before Whitaker and Johnson came together in an enterprising partnership of 99 for the fourth wicket, it looked as though Leicestershire might well be scuppered by orthodox means. Once

Thompson got his outswinger going, he removed both Wells and Maddy and, when Fleming uprooted Sutcliffe's middle stump, by way of an inside edge, three were down for 39.

What may well turn out to be the catch of the season by Strang at deep mid-off had accounted for Wells, but then came Johnson with 72 from 75 balls. A good effort from Whitaker ended with another fine catch, this time by Fulton at short leg. After that, a flurry of declarations. Now, everything depends on the weather.

### Tedley's Challenge Series

#### Glamorgan v Australians

CARDIFF (first day of three): Glamorgan drew with the Australians

AUSTRALIANS: First innings 269 for 4 dec

R T Polding 181 not out, M A Taylor 71, G S Blewett 54, J L Langer 50 not out.

Second innings

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 7

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

M J Slater bowled by Thomas 1

J L Langer bowled by Thomas 1

### Leicestershire v Sussex

OLD TRAFFORD (third day of four): Sussex, with six second-innings wickets in hand, need 104 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Lancashire

LANCASHIRE: First innings 561 for 8 dec

R H F Foster 120, C G Crawley 112, D Austin 75 not out, M Watkinson 75.

Second innings

N J Latham bowled by Martin 5

R H F Foster bowled by Martin 1

C G Crawley bowled by Martin 1

D Austin bowled by Martin 1

M Watkinson bowled by Martin 1

N J Latham bowled by Martin 1

R H F Foster bowled by Martin 1

C G Crawley bowled by Martin 1

D Austin bowled by Martin 1

M Watkinson bowled by Martin 1

N J Latham bowled by Martin 1

R H F Foster bowled by Martin 1

C G Crawley bowled by Martin 1

D Austin bowled by Martin 1

M Watkinson bowled by Martin 1

N J Latham bowled by Martin 1

R H F Foster bowled by Martin 1

C G Crawley bowled by Martin 1

D Austin bowled by Martin 1

M Watkinson bowled by Martin 1

N J Latham bowled by Martin 1

R H F Foster bowled by Martin 1

C G Crawley bowled by Martin 1

D Austin bowled by Martin 1

M Watkinson bowled by Martin 1

N J Latham bowled by Martin 1

R H F Foster bowled by Martin 1

C G Crawley bowled by Martin 1

D Austin bowled by Martin 1

M Watkinson bowled by Martin 1

N J Latham bowled by Martin 1

R H F Foster bowled by Martin 1

C G Crawley bowled by Martin 1

D Austin bowled by Martin 1

M Watkinson bowled by Martin 1

N J Latham bowled by Martin 1

R H F Foster bowled by Martin 1

C G Crawley bowled by Martin 1

D Austin bowled by Martin 1

M Watkinson bowled by Martin 1

N J Latham bowled by Martin 1

R H F Foster bowled by Martin 1

C G Crawley bowled by Martin 1

D Austin bowled by Martin 1

M Watkinson bowled by Martin 1

N J Latham bowled by Martin 1

R H F Foster bowled by Martin 1

C G Crawley bowled by Martin 1

D Austin bowled by Martin 1

M Watkinson bowled by Martin 1

N J Latham bowled by Martin 1

R H F Foster bowled by Martin 1

C G Crawley bowled by Martin 1

D Austin bowled by Martin 1

M Watkinson bowled by Martin 1

N J Latham bowled by Martin 1

R H F Foster bowled by Martin 1

C G Crawley bowled by Martin 1

D Austin bowled by Martin 1

M Watkinson bowled by Martin 1

N J Latham bowled by Martin 1

R H F Foster bowled by Martin 1

C G Crawley bowled by Martin 1

D Austin bowled by Martin 1

### Surrey v Hampshire

GUILDFORD (third day of four): Hampshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 53 runs ahead of Surrey

SURREY: First innings 120 for 4

Barnett 54, M Smith 6 for 47.

Second innings

A S Rallies bowled by Aymes 44

M R May bowled by Aymes 46

C J Adams bowled by Aymes 40

K J Barnett bowled by Aymes 40

M J Slater bowled by Aymes 37

J L Langer bowled by Aymes 34

M J Slater bowled by Aymes 34

J L Langer bowled by Aymes 34

M J Slater bowled by Aymes 34

J L Langer bowled by Aymes 34

M J Slater bowled by Aymes 34

J L Langer bowled by Aymes 34

M J Slater bowled by Aymes 34

J L Langer bowled by Aymes 34

M J Slater bowled by Aymes 34

J L Langer bowled by Aymes 34

M J Slater bowled by Aymes 34

J L Langer bowled by Aymes 34

M J Slater bowled by Aymes 34

J L Langer bowled by Aymes 34

M J Slater bowled by Aymes 34

J L Langer bowled by Aymes 34

M J Slater bowled by Aymes 34

J L Langer bowled by Aymes 34

M J Slater bowled by Aymes 34

J L Langer bowled by Aymes 34



## CRICKET

# Glamorgan unable to home in on target

BY IVO TENNANT

CARDIFF (final day of three): Glamorgan drew with the Australians

THE Australians left Glamorgan too onerous a task yesterday. Mindful, perhaps, that their one defeat by a county in a first-class match came when they set Derbyshire a fair target in the early stages of this tour, they did not declare until lunch. The championship leaders needed 333 off a minimum of 59 overs and settled for a draw with 122 runs still required and eight overs remaining.

Steve James, who made an excellent 79 to go with his 91 in the first innings, became the first batsman in the country to reach 1,000 runs this summer, and in so doing enhanced his chances of playing for England one day. He does not need to concern himself with whether or not he is a part of a fashionable county: when he marries his fiancée in September, Michael Atherton will be among the ushers.

At tea, Glamorgan needed a further 224 off a minimum of 30 overs, which was an awful lot. Morris and James had begun with 96 off 26 overs — a sound enough start — but Maynard chose not to come in at first wicket down, preferring to send in the left-handed Thomas to have a slog. When he was neatly sniped by Berry off a leg-side full toss from Bevan, the asking rate was still seven an over.

Morris had struck seven fours in his 42, a rather more productive innings than he had managed on Thursday. As for James, he batted still more freely. When he had made 15, he became the first batsman to 1,000 runs, which was achieved about three weeks later than is customarily the case. Conceivably it has never occurred so far into a season.

James has had 15 first-class

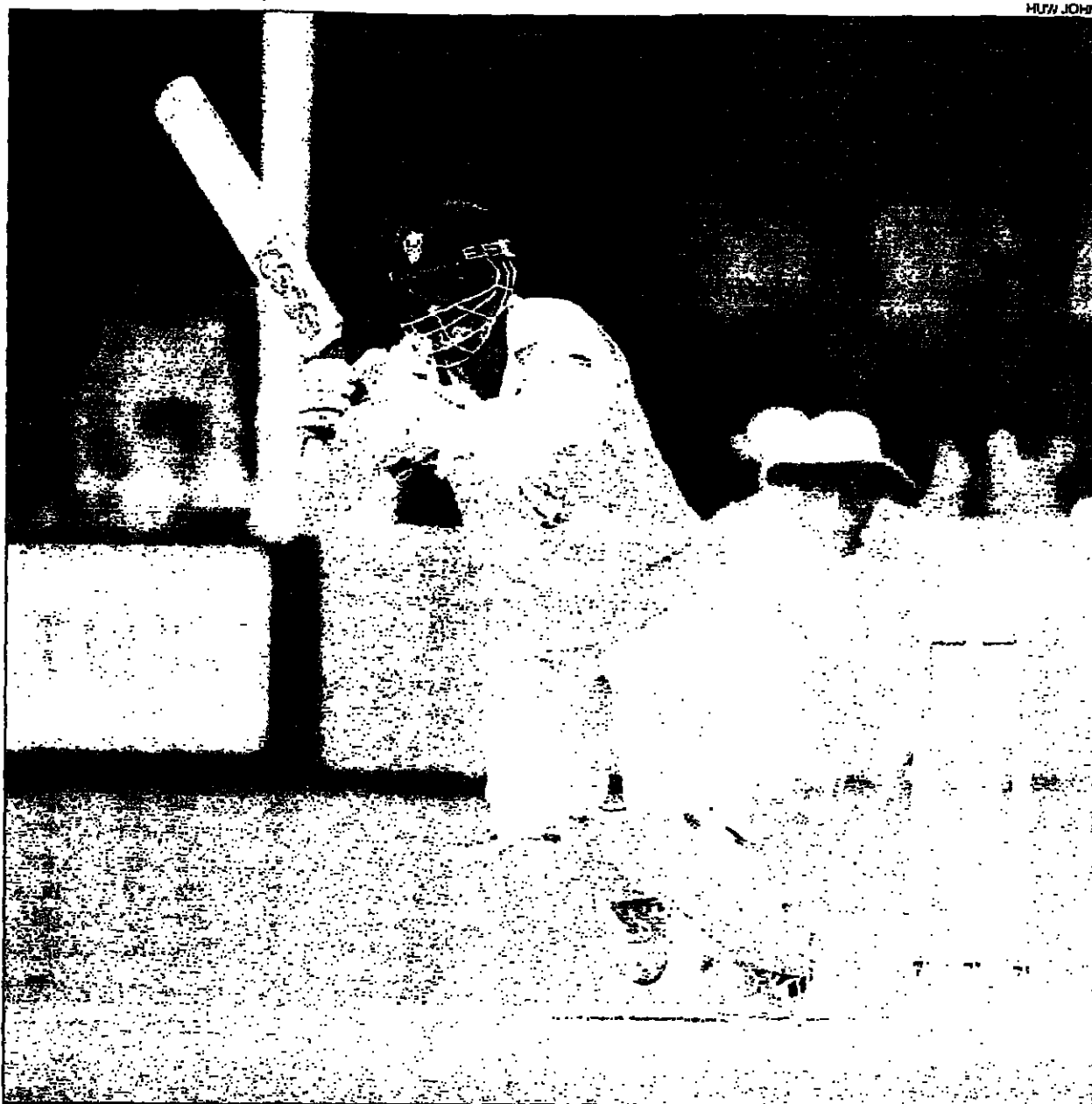
innings. He leaves in his wake two Australians, Matthew Hayden, of Hampshire, and Darren Lehmann, of Yorkshire, so that is something, too. James made, in all, 79 off 116 balls with 11 fours before he pulled a short ball from Bevan, a long hop even, to mid-wicket. It was remarkably similar to his dismissal in his first innings.

Maynard did come in when Thomas was out. He drove Kaspruvicz for six over long-on, a terrific shot achieved with minimal backlift that owed everything to timing and strength of forearms. There were also one or two drives that were reminiscent of his strokeplay when the Australians last came to Glamorgan four years ago. His century then led to a brief recall to Test cricket.

Alas for him, he could not manage any more pyrotechnics now. Also, Dale took 19 balls to get off the mark and was unable to force the ball away after that. When the last hour's play began, 156 were required off the statutory 15 overs and that was too much even for Maynard.

The declaration could, and probably should, have been more imaginative. The Australians, though, were already focused on more important matters at Headingley next week. Last night they returned to London to play Middlesex, their final match before the fourth Test.

They had delayed declaring until Blewett, as well as Reiffel, had made a half-century. The pitch was not giving Bevan's chinamen, nor, for that matter, anybody of quicker pace, any assistance and Warne was not playing. What he was doing, in fact, was signing autographs for a good half an hour for no end of small children. It won him, considerable appreciation from another excellent crowd.



James on-drives elegantly to the boundary and becomes the first batsman to score 1,000 runs this season

## Astle continues to give good value

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

TRENT BRIDGE (third day of four): Nottinghamshire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 68 runs ahead of Warwickshire

NATHAN ASTLE walked to the crease yesterday three overs after lunch, when Paul Johnson retired hurt with a bruised finger. Nottinghamshire were 39 for one in their second innings, and effectively three wickets down as the other Paul, Pollard, had broken the middle finger of his left hand on Thursday, and is expected to miss the rest of the season.

Astle cared not a jot that his team had just been bowled out for 133, and needed to find another 172 runs to make

Warwickshire bat for a second time. By tea, Astle, recruited as recently as June 4, had reached a truly excellent hundred and, though he perished in the first over afterwards, he had given everybody a vigorous account of himself.

The New Zealander has certainly given good value in his first month at Trent Bridge. He made 99 against the Australians and his half-century, and tight bowling, enabled Nottinghamshire to beat Surrey at the Oval in a low-scoring NatWest Trophy tie.

His innings yesterday was only the second century by a Nottinghamshire batsman in the championship this season. Matthew Downman, who made the first, came within a boundary hit of another before

he was leg-before to Graeme Welch.

English teams are already familiar with Astle. In the opening game of the World Cup last year, he made a bracing hundred, and he obstructed them in "Morrison's match", at Auckland in January, when his undefeated century helped the Duck King to save the day.

He is not afraid to challenge the bowlers' authority. Yesterday, with the boundary on the Bridgeford Road side of the ground 60 more than 60 yards square of the wicket, and with the field set for wicket-taking rather than containment, he cut loose from the start, going to his fifty in 42 balls before he reached his century in 112.

Had Penney clung on to a sharp chance at third slip,

Astle would have made 96 runs fewer. Donald, the bowler, was at his hostile best in that spell, and a fine sight he made. Funny enough, however, it was Michael Bell, the left-arm playing his first championship match for two years, who sent Pollard and Johnson for repairs.

Astle added 170 in 38 overs with Downman before he was beautifully caught at second slip by Ostler. Downman, who had played pretty well going in first, was leg-before as he tried to work Welch through mid-wicket.

That was Welch's second wicket of the innings, and his fourth of the day. Like Brown, the other emerging all-rounder, Welch is growing nicely into a team that is acquiring a fresh identity.

## Sales and Curran take fight to Essex

BY BARNY SPENDER

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 305 runs ahead of Essex

THIS season Northamptonshire have struggled to fulfil the expectations of their supporters but, if they go on to record their second championship win today, they can take a well-earned bow. They have battled hard and shown that they can fight as tenaciously as anyone.

Although David Sales took centre stage yesterday, there were impressive supporting roles from Kevin Curran and Malachi Loye, who shared a partnership of 48 that ended with both of them in the medical ward.

Loye played beautifully to reach 43. But when he turned quickly for a second run, he hit the deck, clutching his side as if shot by a sniper. He may be wheeled into action this morning but, if the early prognosis of torn ligaments of the lower back proves correct, it may spell the end of his season.

Shortly afterwards, Curran, on 28, was also back in the pavilion after being struck a painful blow on his right hand by Danny Law. After a swift changing-room operation to drain the blood from the thumb, he returned to the crease but by then Paul Grayson and Ashley Cowan had reduced Northamptonshire to 182 for eight. However, Curran showed great pluck in staying with Sales to the close and won a mini-battle when Law returned. Predictably, the first ball was a bouncer and Curran pulled it savagely to the boundary.

Sales, who has found runs hard to come by this summer, was also in the mood. He smashed one straight drive back past Law and then hooked Cowan out of the ground. He reached his 50 off 111 balls and by the close had moved to 63, his highest of the season. If Northamptonshire do clinch it, their captain, Rob Bailey, will recall the match with mixed feelings. He completed his first pair for the county yesterday to set alongside the one he collected in the second of his four Tests, in Trinidad in 1991.

## Hick makes the most of acquiescent opposition

BY JOHN THICKWESSE

WORCESTER (final day of three): Worcestershire drew with Pakistan A

WORCESTERSHIRE saved their game against Pakistan A without coming under pressure at New Road and, on a blameless pitch, it was no surprise that Graeme Hick scored 144, his 93rd first-class hundred, one behind C.B. Fry. The innings contained some memorable strokes, none more remarkable than a six into the road in which the follow-through hardly reached waist height, so sweetly did he time it.

All the same, it must have been among the luckiest hundreds of Hick's career: at 94, he was dropped just inside the extra-cover boundary by a fielder who did not have to move. Eighty minutes later, when he holed out at long leg, there were five sixes and 30 fours to Hick's credit off 153 balls, his runs coming out of 232.

Commanding as he was, though, his runs were made against all-too-acquiescent opposition. Ovens were favourable when Solanki, overconfident, threw away his wicket after half an hour and, 20 minutes later, when Weston retired hurt after being hit on the foot by Shoaib Akhtar, Worcestershire needed another 155 to save an innings defeat. However, the Pakistanis drooped when Hick edged Razvi just wide of second slip, who then dropped Spirling two-handed off the same bowler.

Akhtar deserved Spirling's wicket off a thick edge square of gully. But it spoke volumes for the touring team's state of mind that when Akhtar stopped a Hick drive with his foot, it took eight minutes before the game restarted, three of them elapsing while Akhtar hobbled off the field.

Returning to be hit by Hick for 16 in the first over after lunch, Akhtar later sent Leatherdale to hospital for stitches to his mouth, through ducking into a short ball that skidded through chest-high. Like Weston, though, who was padded up to hat had another wicket fallen, Leatherdale is expected to be fit for the Axa Life League game against Glamorgan tomorrow.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

## 50% off US trekking tours

Plus 20 pairs of return tickets to the US to be won

THIS week readers of *The Times* can enjoy savings of 50% on a three-week adventure tour of north America with Trek America, the specialists in off-the-beaten-track adventures. Plus everyone who books a tour will be entered into a prize draw, courtesy of US travel specialists Flightbookers, with the chance to win one of 20 pairs of tickets flying with American Airlines who have up to 20 flights daily to any one of more than 200 US cities. Bookings must be made by Aug 31, 1997 when the draw will take place. The 50% offer applies to the *Best of the West* tour which includes horseback rides with Navajo Indians, hiking, biking or flying in the Grand Canyon and visits to Disneyland and Hollywood.

• When travelling to the USA, Flightbookers can pre-book all your travel arrangements, including flights, car hire, accommodation, and insurance. For further information on US holidays with Flightbookers call 0171-757 2000.

## HOW TO APPLY

Call Flightbookers on 0171-757 2000 to request your Trek America and Flightbookers brochures. When you return your booking form, attach the four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* to the completed voucher, right, to validate your discount. (If you cut out Monday's voucher, still please use the address for Flightbookers, not the one printed on that voucher.) The 50% discount applies to the *Best of the West* treks originating at San Francisco and starting on September 17 and 24, October 15 and 29, 1997. The normal cost is £715 but *Times* readers pay just £357.50. For departures on July 30, August 13 and 20, and September 3 and 10, 1997, a 20% discount is available off the normal prices of £715 to £736. Flights between the UK and US are not included in these prices. You can also get 20% off any other tour featured in the Trek America or Flightbookers brochures with treks lasting from seven days to nine weeks. Flightbookers' insurance is compulsory with the above offers.



American Airlines TREK AMERICA

## THE TIMES TREK AMERICA VOUCHER

Attach four tokens from *The Times* and send this form, to: The Times Trek America Offer, Flightbookers, 177-178, Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LX. The holidays are subject to availability, so hurry and book now.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Day Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Evenings \_\_\_\_\_

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick ☐

CHANGING TIMES

# STELLA DRY

275 ml bottle

## 40%

### OFF A CASE

#### 24 FOR £15.12

Equivalent to single bottle price of 63p

## THRESHER WINE SHOP

ADVENTURES. GUARANTEED

Selected stores now open until 10.30pm.  
Offer runs from 17.7.97 to 20.7.97 inclusive.

Prices correct at time of going to press. Normal price of 24 bottles £25.20. Available to over 18's only. Offer subject to availability. No further discounts apply including shareholder's discount.



Caddie stands firm behind master golfer after error at 10th hole costs four strokes

# Woods meets his match in the vagaries of Troon

HOW splendidly, and sometimes capriciously, does the game of golf mimic the patterns of life. Tiger Woods crossed the Atlantic last week justifiably labelled the finest young golfer in the world: indeed, he may prove to be the best yet born. Yet Royal Troon has the measure of him.

In the fierce winds of Thursday, he was trapped at the 11th, where he took seven shots. In the calm, clear, sunlit morning yesterday, this immaculate golfer took eight shots, four over par, to sink his ball at the 10th hole... and he made the cut for the remaining two rounds only through a birdie at the 18th, a final achievement that showed his character, calculation and inspiration.

It is reassuring, in a way, to see a phenomenon disarmed by a course on the Scottish coastline that has been teasing and testing men and women through the century. This is the art, the allure of golf: the course confounds man, examines his ability and his temperament to the limits, humbles him just when he has 50 million reasons — dollars in the bank — to presume the mantle of greatness.

I wish Woods no ill will. At 21, he meets triumph and disaster, at least in the public glare after his rounds, articulately, with equanimity, and a measure of modesty. However, it was astonishing, at the 10th yesterday, the way that a cathedral quiet was cast around the hole as, caught in Troon's long rough, he was reduced to an ordinary being.

It was not Woods alone. In Augusta, a couple of months ago, where he had so majestically strode away from the field, it was a tale of the Tiger and the Walrus. At his side, nursing him, reading the greens to perfection for him, relaxing him, was Mike "Fluff" Cowan, the experienced caddy with the drooping white moustache. At his side in the ravine of Troon is again Cowan, though in this

ROB HUGHES



At Royal Troon

the master golfer and the bag carrier are like novices. Cowan confirmed after the round yesterday that he and his man had never been to Troon before this week.

More than that, Cowan would not disassociate himself from Woods's moment of vulnerability. "It started with a very bad shot, but we both chose the club, an eight-iron, and we both liked it," he said. The instant that Woods hit the ball, however, he exclaimed: "Oh, not Good God!" That club, used for the second shot at the 438-yard hole, projected the ball beyond the green and deep into long rye grass, backing on to gorse bushes.

The ball moved three inches. He hacked at it again, moved it perhaps six yards, and then, borne out of pique from a talented player so unaccustomed to this Scottish rough, he used the wedge a third time, propelled the ball hastily and violently, up and over the green to the other side. From there, he chipped shallowly towards the green and then two-putted.

Making matters worse, the scoreboard overlooking that hole kept relating to Woods and Cowan that Darren Clarke was burning up the course, using the same becalmed morning conditions to hit birdie after birdie, six of them on the outward nine.

The surface of Troon, combed by gentler winds yesterday, is as like the smooth and wide fairways of manicured Augusta as French red clay is like Wimbledon grass. Maybe that was why Cowan seemed to become distant from his employer on the greens yesterday, a separation that was not helped by a round of golf that produced barely a semblance of joy.

Woods struggled from the 1st, where, with his short iron, he fluffed the approach to the green. He was then to miss vital putts, from two feet on the 3rd green and from even closer on the 8th, where he completely misread the lie.

In elements friendly to the golfer, the galleries, rather than the expectant hordes who whoop wherever Woods strides in the United States, were bystanders of curiosity: waiting for the magic, willing to judge the man not on his reputation but on what he did before them.

Again, the caddy protected his player. "It's your expectations, not ours," Cowan said. "I learnt a long time ago that you don't play this game with expectations, you go play." Then, cancelling his own planned recreational round in the afternoon, Cowan said: "Tiger hit more fairways and more greens today than he did yesterday, but it's a game of putts and, in my opinion, the score [74] reflects only that the putts didn't go in."

For a day, then, the mood of the Tiger drooped like the moustache of the Walrus. He lives to play another round today, and I do hope that the small boy, clad from cap to trainers in Tiger Woods Nike apparel, can be brought back to witness a recharged icon.



The day's work over, Woods is left to ponder on his battle with Troon that will continue this morning

## EARLY OPEN SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

132: D Clarke 67, 68	140: A Cabrera (Arg) 70, 70
135: J Leonard (US) 69, 68	141: J Haas (US) 71, 70; T Watson (US) 71, 70; M Calzaghe (US) 74, 67
136: J Parnevik (Swe) 70, 68	142: C Strange (US) 71, 71; D Duval (US) 73, 68; P Leonard (Aus) 72, 72; G Norman (Aus) 69, 73; E Romero (Arg) 74, 68
137: F Couples (US) 69, 68	143: J Lomas 72, 71; M James 76, 67; P O'Malley (Aus) 73, 70; T Punzer (US) 72, 71; L Westwood 73, 70; S Tompa (Japan) 74, 69; S Ames (Irr) 74, 69; J M O'Connell (Sp) 75, 68
138: J Furyk (US) 67, 72; T Kite (US) 72, 67	144: E Els (SA) 75, 69; N Faldo 71, 73; P O'Malley (Aus) 73, 70; T Punzer (US) 72, 71; L Westwood 73, 70; S Tompa (Japan) 74, 69; S Ames (Irr) 74, 69; J M O'Connell (Sp) 75, 68
	145: E Els (SA) 75, 69; P Harrington 75, 69; B Faxon (US) 77, 67; P Mickelson (US) 76, 68; S Appleyard (Aus) 72, 70; J B Howard 70, 74; J Kelly 72, 70; R Goosen (SA) 75, 68; R Russell 72, 72; I Woosnam 71, 73; R Albaro (Aus) 75, 68; J T Jones 72, 73; T Toles (US) 77, 68; J Payne 74, 71; J Maggert (US) 76, 69; S Stricker (US) 72, 73; M McIlroy (Zim) 75, 67; C Montgomerie 76, 68; W Flay (Aus) 74, 71
	146: F Nobilo (NZ) 74, 72; T Lehman (US) 74, 72; S Singh (Fin) 77, 69; T Woods (US) 72, 74; B Langer (Ger) 72, 74; R Davis (Aus) 73, 73; A Colautt 73, 72; D Robertson 76, 72
	147: D A Russell 75, 72; S Jones (US) 76, 71; C Favin (US) 78, 69; G Turner (NZ) 76, 71; J Spence 78, 69; P McGinley 78, 69; J Haskins (US) 73, 74; P Stewart (US) 73, 74

## OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP '97

148: G Orr 78, 72; M Wiebe (US) 73, 75; M Long (NZ) 78, 70; S Ellington (Aus) 78, 72; P Haskins (Swe) 70, 72; G Brand 78, 72; C Mason 78, 70; P Fuke (Swe) 73, 75; D Howell 75, 73; W Webster (SA) 75, 74; A Colautt 73, 72; D Robertson 76, 72	149: L Jansen (US) 78, 71; C Stadler (US) 78, 71; G Player (SA) 78, 71; C Perry (Aus) 78, 70; R Darron (US) 78, 73; P Baker 79, 70; B Wells (US) 75, 74; C Watson 73, 76; T Bjorn (Dan) 76, 73; P Broadhurst 75, 74; L Roberts (US) 73, 73
150: C Rocca (It) 75, 75; N Price (Zim) 78, 72; M Brookes (US) 80, 70; G Day (US) 78, 72; S Edwards (US) 77, 73; S McCann (US) 73, 77	151: I Garrido (Sp) 78, 72; M A Martin (US) 78, 72; J Shankamer (Hol) 78, 73; P Blackmer (US) 75, 75; J Cook (US) 76, 76
152: W Staddon 78, 74; M A Jimenez (Sp) 82, 70; Kirovsky (Kor) 77, 75; L Batchelor 77, 75; C Clark 78, 73; S Torrance 78, 74	153: A Cresser 78, 77; D Olsson (Swe) 81, 73; M Grahame 78, 76; G Dodd (Aus) 78, 75; S Webster 75, 78; A Lyde 78, 75; J van de Velde (Zim) 77, 78
154: P Hougard (Nor) 79, 75; M Miller 82, 72	155: D Hart (US) 78, 77; R Green (Aus) 80, 72; K Erikson (Swe) 85, 70
156: G Murphy 84, 72; P Skotkowski (US) 80, 76; S Mori (Japan) 80, 76	157: P Skotkowski 80, 76; S Mori (Japan) 80, 76
158: D Frost (SA) 81, 77; M Marnett (Swe) 83, 75	159: S Young 79, 80; R Jacquelin (Fr) 81, 76
161: A Calka (Ger) 81, 80	162: N Sato (Japan) 85, 78
164: D Edlund (Swe) 87, 77; J Miller 80, 84	Withdrawn: J Oost (Japan), Y Kaneko (Japan), C Perry (US)

## Sultan of swing looks in dire straits

There is something faintly irritating about the turgid sameness that permeates the modern world of sport. Tennis, for example, has its two-fisted backhands, cricket its uniformly boring medium-pace bowlers: see one, and you have seen them all. In golf, too, technique is everything, so it is perversely pleasant to encounter a player whose method is totally, relentlessly and wonderfully daft.

The misfit in question is Jim Furyk, a 27-year-old American who might have been born to fit Walter Hagen's maxim that "It's not how, it's how many." If golf scores were based on style, Furyk would have a job to break 100.

The modest Pennsylvanian, who has played a leading part in the first two rounds of the Open Championship, has a swing that is all his own, which is just as well since nobody else would want it even if he were giving it away. A golf swing should have as few moving parts as possible. Furyk's has so many that it is a small wonder that bits do not fly off him when he hits the ball.

Mel Webb applauds as the coaching manual is brutally ripped to shreds

His swing is a wondrous, loopy swipe that makes him look like a mad axeman threshing wheat. At the top of the backswing there is something that almost defies description: it is a swirl, a flourish, a twiddle, a whist that says more clearly than a thousand words: "Whoops, there's something going wrong up there, let's adjust before we fall over."

The Furyk flail has been described in many ways, the most memorable of which was undoubtedly coined by David Feherty, erstwhile Europe Ryder Cup player and now a television commentator in the United States, who said that the swing looked like an octopus falling out of a tree. Somebody else said Furyk resembled a man trying to kill a snake in a telephone box. It is Basil Fawley, Monty Python and Max Wall all wrapped up in

one gloriously eccentric package that comes directly from the Ministry of Silly Golf Swings.

People with swings like this usually come by them naturally: nobody taught Eamonn Darcy or Russell Claydon, the two leading European purveyors of side-splittingly comical swings, how to do it. No sane person could. Yet Furyk claims that he was actually taught to hit the ball like that by his father, who, as the man who as the man responsible for causing innocent spectators to suffer hernias from laughing as they watch his son hit a golf ball, has a lot to answer for.

The strangest thing of all is that it works beautifully. Furyk goes into the third round today in a good position on three under par. He might look funny, but his ball-striking ability is no laughing matter.

He is seventh on the order of merit and sixth in the Ryder Cup list: spectators at Valderrama in September are in for a treat. As long, that is, as they remember to pack a truss. It's not how, remember, it's how many.

## Jester Parnevik is happy to stand out from crowd

By PATRICIA DAVIES

JESPER PARNEVIK, known for his brim, his vim and his aversion to leaderboards, played well-nigh immaculate golf in the shimmering sunshine at Royal Troon yesterday to return a second-round score of 66, five under par, for a total of 136, six under.

The skinnier, cerebral Swede — he purges his system every month or so with a diet of volcanic sand and prefers reading Oriental philosophy to the latest potboiler — is very much out of the ordinary, off and on the course. He was the only man to break par on the inward nine in the brutal wind on Thursday, despite a double-bogey six at the 11th. He came home in 34, one under par, with birdies at the last three holes — and four of the last five — yet he set off with a different putter yesterday.

"My game and putting felt terrible," Parnevik said, "so I changed from a Callaway to an STX, a strange putter with a rubber insert." So strange that he hit his first putt 12 feet past the hole and missed the next to drop a shot. It was just about his only error.

He hit every green in regulation, bar the par-five 4th, where he was on in two and holed from ten feet for an eagle, and the 18th, where he drove into the rough, put his second shot into a pot bunker and did well to blast out on to the front edge of the green, 45 feet from the hole. Three putts looked likely, given the humps and hollows to be negotiated — Parnevik's estimate was 15 feet of break — but he needed only one.



Parnevik: eagle at 4th

"Things like that you're going to remember all year," he said. "It's the sort of thing that happens in this tournament. It is pretty much the only tournament that makes your hair stand up when you play in it."

At the age of 33, Parnevik, now 32, announced that he was going to win the Open and three years ago, at Turnberry, he very nearly did. Inexperienced in the ways of major championships, he did not look at the scoreboard, preferring to assess the position by ear rather than eye, misjudged the situation and bogeyed the last, losing to Nick Price by one shot. Parnevik looks at scoreboards now.

For a man hard to label, he is replete with logos and his clothing — designed by Johan Lindebergh — features the outline of a golf-gloved hand. He is also immediately recognisable because of the

upturned peak of his cap, a fact that started because he wanted to tan his pale forehead and has developed from minor idiosyncrasy to big business. SAP America is writing large on it and is not a reference to the wearer's daffier tendencies, but the name of a German computer software company.

This search for an identity of his own owes much to being the son of Bo Parnevik, a comedian who is a celebrity in Sweden and a golf nut, who hit floating balls into the lake behind their home with his son. In his early days, Parnevik Jr, who described the game as "mind-boggling, maddening and frustrating", would always opt for the spectacular shot and go nuts if it did not work.

Now, happily married to Mia and father of two daughters, Penny, two, and Peg (in Swedish her name means "tee" — typical Parnevik, according to his compatriots), two months, Parnevik is more at ease with himself and is reflected in his golf.

He won the Landmark Trophy by five shots from Colin Montgomerie last September, then took three months off before coming third in the Bob Hope Classic. He has since been second four times in the United States and earned nearly \$800,000. "He's got to be on the Ryder Cup team," a spectator said yesterday.

Parnevik, who is not a member of the PGA European Tour, needs Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe captain, to pick him but, in the meantime, very much his father's son, the Swede is happy to put on his own show.

## Three join fallen champion

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

NAOMICHI OZAKI and Yoshinori Kaneko, both of Japan, and Chris Perry, of the United States, withdrew from the second round because of injuries. Ozaki has a wrist injury and Kaneko a back problem; Perry is suffering from a thigh injury.

They joined Ian Baker-Finch, of Australia, a winner of the Open at Royal Birkdale in 1991, who withdrew after a 21-over-par 92 in the opening round.

Dennis Edlund and Daniel Olsson, both of Sweden, made holes in one yesterday. Edlund at the 8th, the 126-yard Postage Stamp — the shortest hole on the Open rota of courses — with a nine-iron.

Gene Sarazen, of the United States, a winner of the Open at Troon, was 70 when he made a hole in one at the Postage Stamp in 1982.

Edlund's shot did not help him beat the halfway cut. Olsson, an amateur, made a hole in one at the 210-yard 5th with a five-iron. On Thursday another Swede, Pierre Fulke, holed in one at the 179-yard 14th, a week after he made a hole in one in the opening round of the Loch Lomond World Invitational.



Furyk's eccentric swing has been described as resembling an octopus falling out of a tree by David Feherty

## TITLEIST. THE CHOICE OF THE PRO'S AT THE OPEN.



Darren Clarke Ernie Els Bernhard Langer Tom Lehman Colin Montgomerie Jose Maria Olazabal Phil Mickelson Lee Westwood Tiger Woods To name just a few

There's one ball that always wins at the Open Championship. That ball is Titleist. Every year since records have been kept, more of the Open field have chosen to play Titleist than all the other clubs combined. And the reason is simple. The result was so different. Because no other ball gives the Pros the consistency and performance they need. Which is why, on Sunday, Titleist is the victor. In the 132nd Open Championship.

©1997 Titleist Inc. All rights reserved.

Titleist



[illegible]



# Clarke leaves Open rivals in his wake



		4 Par		Under par		Over par	
		Hole	1	2	3	4	5
		Yards	364	391	37	37	37
		Par	4	4	4	4	4
Total under par	• B Clarke		4	3	4	4	
	• J Leonard		4	3	4	4	
	• F Parnevik		5	4	4		
	• F Couples		3	2	4		
	• J Fuyk		4	4	4		
	• T Kite		3	4	4		
	• A Cabrera		5	1	4		
	• T Watson		3	3	4		
	• J Haas		2	4	4		

[illegible]

Pierre Fulke's on the 14th on Thursday was followed by an ace by Dennis Edlund at the 8th in the second round and then a third ace by Daniel Olsson on the 5th a few hours later.

EARLY SECOND-ROUND LEADERBOARD																								
4 Par		Royal Troon Par 71 (7,679 yards)																						
		Under par										Over par												
		Outward nine - 36 (3,429 yards)										Inward nine - 35 (3,650 yards)												
	Hole yards Par	1 35 4	2 391 4	3 379 4	4 557 5	5 210 3	6 577 4	7 402 3	8 126 4	9 423 4	10 438 4	11 463 4	12 431 4	13 455 4	14 479 3	15 457 3	16 542 5	17 423 3	18 452 4	1st md	2nd md	3rd md	4th md	Total
	D Clarke	3	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	3	4	67	66	133
	J Leonard	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	69	66		135
	J Pernow	5	4	4	5	3	5	3	4	4	4	5	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	70	66		136
	F Combes	3	4	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	4	3	69	68		137
	J Ferry	4	4	4	6	3	5	5	4	4	4	4	5	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	67	72		139
	T Kite	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	72	67		139
	A Calverley	5	4	4	5	4	5	3	4	4	4	5	4	5	3	4	4	3	4	4	70	70		140
	T Watson	3	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	3	5	4	3	5	3	71	70		141
	J Haas	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	3	5	5	3	4	4	71	70		141
	M Calverley	4	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	5	4	5	4	5	3	4	5	3	4	3	70	67		141

If BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, which owns *The Times*, is effectively prevented from bidding, the BBC will be able to retain Test cricket for substantially less than its market value, simply through an absence of opposition. Should the shares remain tied, the ECB estimates that television income could drop to as little as £12 million a year, instead of making the hoped-for advance to £30 million or more by the millennium, and the consequences of such a fall in revenue would be severe.

Meanwhile, Barclay Howard, who featured strongly on the leaderboard on Thursday, became certain to win the silver medal for the best amateur performance. He added a 74 to the one-under-par 70 that he scored in the first round to finish on 144, two over par. The other six amateurs in the field went out

76-78 Eastgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1QN  
Telephone: 01452 413300 Faxsimile: 01452 308040  
Licensed Credit Broker. Written details available upon request.  
**YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENT  
ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOANS SECURED ON IT.**

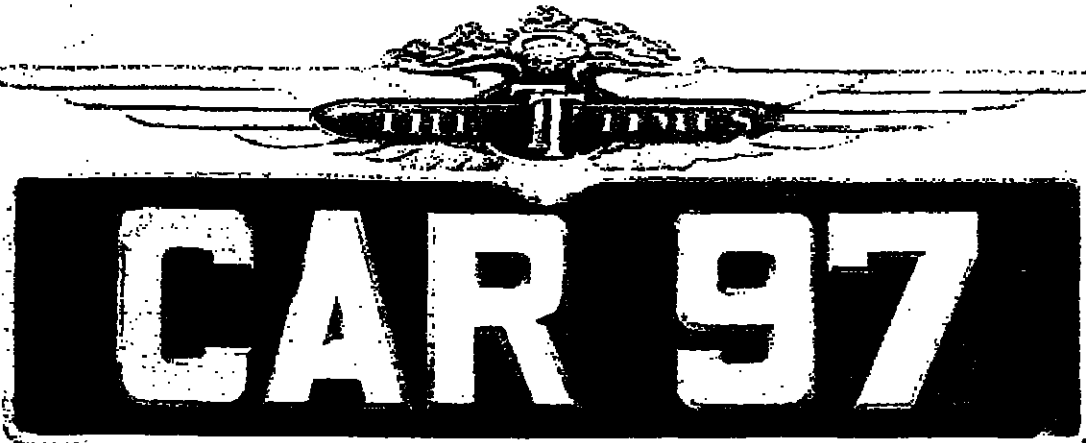
**C'mon you reds  
ITF starts July 28th.**

مكة أمه لأهل



Men who  
put the  
magic in  
Mercedes'  
mini

Page 3



For sale:  
racing car  
with a  
history  
of murder

Page 5



SATURDAY JULY 19 1997

## Alan Copps experiences time travel at the wheel of a turbocharged giant from Crewe



Paintwork and leather samples for customers to choose from at Burton House in Sheffield. "Our customers are used to commissioning things like clothes, jewellery, even yachts," says Graham Lenden

# Bentley goes back to the future

I looked to my experienced eye like a 20-minute queue. But the curse of London's Blackwall Tunnel struck hard this time and we were obliged to sit and chat in air-conditioned comfort for at least an hour while the children in the back seats watched almost the entire video of *Fantasia*.

There's a lot to be said for driving a modern Bentley in such circumstances. At one time a die-hard Bentley enthusiast might mutter at this point "and not a lot to be said at any other time". But even the band who revere the marque's founder "W.O." as an automotive saint and have mourned ever since Rolls-Royce took over the company in 1931 would agree these days.

The car in question was a Bentley Turbo RT, one of a number of new four-door Rolls-Royce and Bentley models launched last week and it was when the traffic cleared that its merits were best appreciated. After all, if you're paying around £149,000 for a car you have every right to expect top-class leather and finest walnut, lambswool rugs, a cocktail cabinet, fridge, in-car video, CD player, built-in mobile phone and seats like armchairs.

But you might just raise an eyebrow when you put your foot down and the whole 24 tons of Blenheim Palace on wheels hits 60mph in less than six seconds. I regret to say there was nowhere that I could test the 150mph "governed" maximum speed. But if you told me this space ship could reach warp factor 9.8 and beat the *Starship Enterprise* to the Delta Quadrant, I'd believe it. My American guests were impressed as we made up time on the way to our picnic at Leeds Castle in Kent (hungry from the delay, my daughter jumped into the boot to eat).

What Rolls-Royce has done to the Bentley marque in the last 15 years is an example of time travel. The basic shape has not changed greatly since the cars were open to criticism as simply rebadged Rolls-Royces, but the character has changed radically back towards the cars that W.O. made. Ray Wiltshire, President of the Bentley Drivers Club, and as likely to be

seen at the wheel of a vintage Le Mans "blower" as a modern "space ship" says: "I'm delighted with the way the company has been returning to the roots of the marque. I think the spirit they are bringing to its revival is tremendous."

Bentleys now account for 60 per cent of the company's sales worldwide and what the Turbo RT shows is that the magic breathed on two-door models like the Continental T and convertible Azure can be successfully translated to four-door models. The heart of that change must lie in the turbocharging of the 6.75-litre V8 engine, boosting power to a mighty 400bhp. Advances in roadholding and handling have



My daughter jumped into the boot for her picnic

kept pace with sheer power and for such a hefty package the car is astonishingly agile.

But in launching this latest range of four-door models, the company has taken another step back to the future by emphasising the degree to which buyers can "bespoke" their cars. Of course, there's never been a Rolls-Royce or Bentley that wasn't bespoke to a greater or lesser degree. In days gone by both companies would build only running chassis and any buyer would go to his favoured coachbuilder to commission bodywork and fittings. Now by stepping up the operations of coachbuilders Mulliner Park Ward at its Crewe factory the company is offering a great deal more of this service directly.

"Rolls-Royce is the only British-owned marque in the world's top ten recognised brands. We've got to be very special. The first step to a bespoke car is to sit down with a designer and explore the purpose for which a customer wants a car," says Graham Lenden, Chief Executive of Rolls-Royce Motors.

Graham Lenden, product marketing manager, says: "We want visiting the factory to be part of the experience. It's like going to your favourite tailor. We are in the high luxury sector. Our customers are used to commissioning things like clothes, jewellery, art, even yachts." The extreme examples of commissioning the company quotes are the "Talamo Bentley", a Continental R in stripped-out racing form ordered by Italian dealer Carlo Talamo, and the ultimate Rolls-Royce Park Ward, a limousine with wheelbase extended by 48ins and laden with special equipment for a ruler in the Far East.

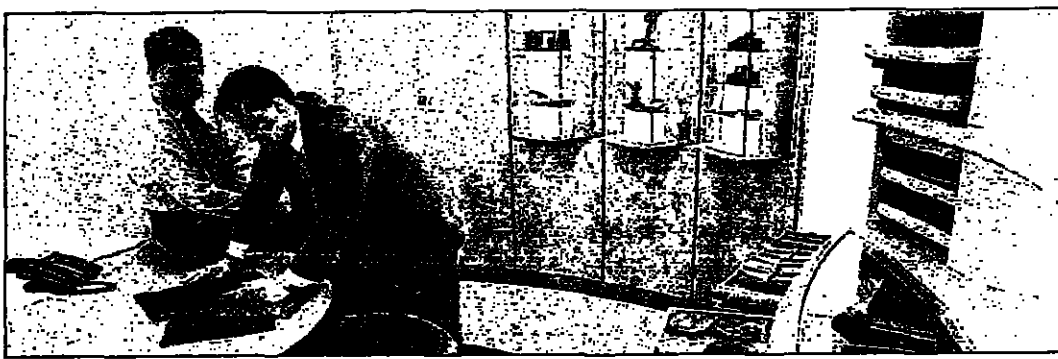
About 1,000 potential customers visited the Crewe factory last year. But to make it easier to involve them in design the "bespoke" treatment is being extended to dealers. A pilot project at Burton House in Sheffield has proved enormously successful. "We opened our doors five months ago and have sold 32 cars, 17 Bentley Turbos, two Azures, two Continentals, six Brooklands, three Rolls-Royce Silver Spurs and two Silver Dawns. But only one was to be chauffeur driven," says general manager John Mason.

The showroom has separate Rolls-Royce and Bentley commissioning booths with choices of everything from paintwork to piping. The idea has worked so well that the company has produced its own limited edition Continental named the Chatsworth after the stately home of a customer, the Duke of Devonshire.

With its hide-covered top rails, black chrome and angled central console, it's a strikingly modern car for a "traditional" maker and at £245,000 about £20,000 more than the basic car. When I arrived the boxer Prince Naseem Hamed, fresh from a prang in a Ferrari, had just been out on a test drive.



The Bentley Turbo RT is a Blenheim Palace on wheels that hits 60mph in less than six seconds



Burton House: "We opened five months ago and have sold 32 cars — only one chauffeur driven"

## Silver Ghost, gold quality

Lord Montagu recalls the launch by his father of the most famous Rolls-Royce model in 1908

When my father switched on the electric current to inaugurate the new Derby factory of Rolls-Royce — "the most perfectly equipped motor works in the kingdom" — on 9 July 1908, he remarked: "There is one reason why I think the Rolls-Royce is the best car in the world and that is because I have just ordered one myself."

That statement was all the more remarkable since it was only four years since Henry Royce had built his first car. However, demand for Rolls-Royce cars had quickly outstripped the capacity of Royce's factory in Cooke Street, Manchester. This in any case had been established for the manufacture of the "dynamos, motors and kindred articles", which had made Henry Royce's name as an electrical engineer, and a "sort of guerrilla warfare" was waged between Royce and his works manager over whether mechanics should work on motor cars or the electric cranes which were the mainstay of the business.

Cars might have remained a sideline to the activities of Royce and company had it not been for the arrival on the scene of the Hon C.S. Rolls, third son of Lord Llangatock. Rolls had been one of Britain's first private motorists, and in 1903 had set up in business as a supplier of motor cars to the well-to-do, a business in which he was joined by the former secretary of the Automobile Club, Claude Johnson. The refined qualities of Royce's first car had appealed to Rolls and Johnson, even though it was only a 10hp two-cylinder model, and they agreed to take all his production, which they sold under the name "Rolls Royce".

At first, Rolls-Royce had offered a complex range of cars — 10hp twin, 15hp three, 20hp four and 30hp six-cylinder — which had been compounded in 1905 by the addition of a V8 power unit used in the short-lived "Legalimit" — which was designed to be incapable of exceeding the 20mph speed restriction!

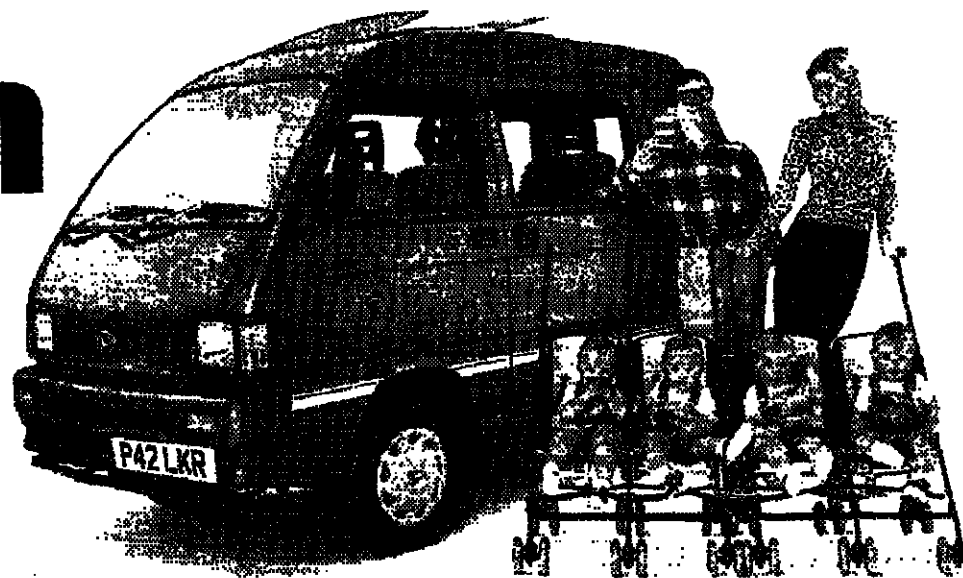
All of these were soon to be swept away by a 40/50 hp six-cylinder model first seen at the 1906 Olympia Motor Show, in which year the association between the electrical engineer and the aristocrat was formalised by the registration of a new company, Rolls-Royce Ltd. It was not an easy birth: investors were wary of new car company launches after a succession of unstable firms had collapsed with heavy losses, and the issue — vital to the financing of the new factory — was seriously undersubscribed as the due date neared. It was only the intervention of an enthusiastic Rolls-Royce owner named Arthur Briggs, who agreed to take up the shortfall, which saved the flotation from failure.

Early in 1907, work started on the new factory on a greenfield site on the outskirts of Derby, and in

Continued on page 2

# After passion wagon.

It's the usual story. Boy meets girl. Girl meets boy. Boy and girl, ahem... suddenly need a bigger car. Enter the remarkable Daihatsu Hijet MPV: the perfect runabout for mum, dad and even four kids. It has two sunroofs, five doors (two sliding), plenty of room for shopping, a frugal 1 litre engine, a five-speed gearbox and even a three year or 60,000 mileage warranty. All for only £9,000 on the road. And if that's not enough to tempt you, just think about the four back seats. For more information call 0800 521 700. THE SIX SEAT HIJET MPV.



DAIHATSU

NO NONSENSE VEHICLES

PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS INCLUDES VAT, DELIVERY NUMBER PLATES AND 12 MONTHS' ROAD FUND LICENCE. EACH VEHICLE OF THIS MODEL IS A PASSENGER CONVERSION OF A HIJET REGISTERED AS A COMMERCIAL VEHICLE.

1700 MPV



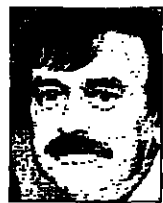
Road deaths are down thanks to videocameras, so now it's time to install more of them — financed by the revenue raised from speeding fines

## Take a snap in complete safety

The four London boroughs that installed speed cameras three years ago could scarcely have dreamed that they would reduce road deaths by 70 per cent. The announcement by Hillingdon, Hounslow, Richmond and Ealing this week that average annual road deaths are down from 21 to six means that cameras are here to stay.

That was never in much doubt, because the evidence from elsewhere in Britain has been that cameras are a major deterrent. Anyone who has occasionally been foolish enough to risk a speeding fine in areas where there are cameras has noticed that other drivers are travelling markedly slower. In the days before cameras, speeding motorists were one of a pack: now they stand out like the proverbial sore thumb.

### DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



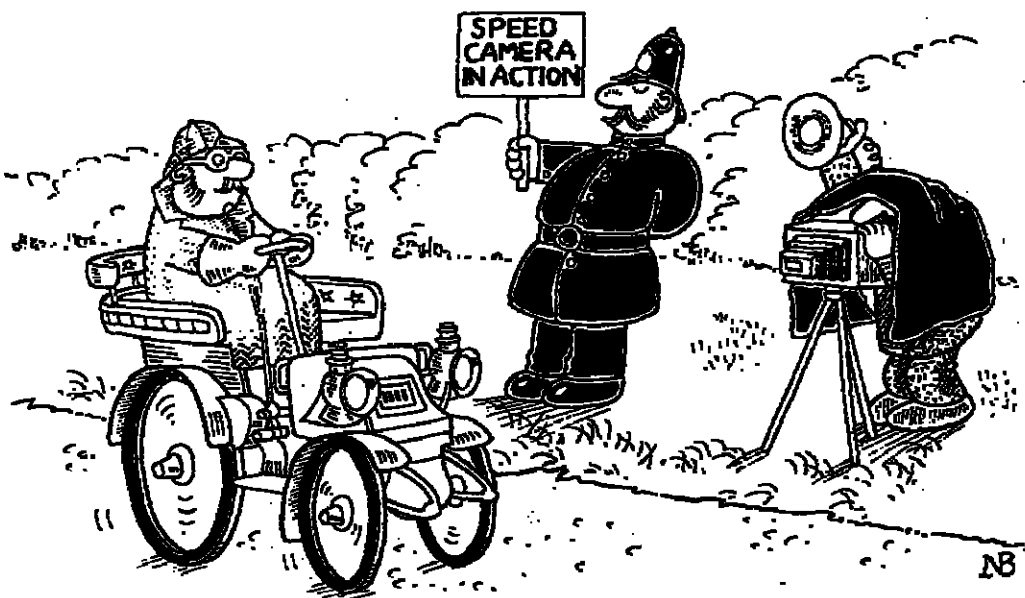
Peter Barnard

Extrapolate the figures from London and the national potential is quite remarkable. At present about 3,600 people are killed each year in road accidents: about one-third of those can be attributed to speed. So if the London percentage full of 70 per cent applied national-

ly, 840 lives would be saved each year.

The question that now arises is that if cameras are so successful, why are so few of our roads covered by them? This issue came up on the *Today* programme on Wednesday. Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, was asked why cash-starved police authorities could not share the revenue from speeding fines to fund more cameras.

He gave an answer that was too complex for most of us at that hour of the morning: it had something to do with the fact that speeding offences would have to be decriminalised for the revenue to go in that direction. Even a senior police officer on the same programme seemed not to know what Strang was talking about. In fact, the Minister was quite



right. Britain has a bizarre and archaic legal system and not the least of its curiosities is that money raised from criminal fines goes straight to the Treasury, where it disappears into a black hole and re-emerges in the guise of a subsidy to farmers or a luncheon voucher for a civil servant. Speeding is a crime, therefore if

the money raised from speeding tickets is to be spent directly on cameras, which are funded locally, speeding would have to be decriminalised. The fine would then become a charge, and a charge can be raised by local authorities (or indeed police authorities) and spent on specific measures. Parking fines in London boroughs, for

example, are not really fines but charges and are payable to the local authority.

Strang said on *Today* that speeding kills people, therefore he was reluctant to decriminalise it. I agree with that, but surely that is looking through the wrong end of the telescope. What we need is not the decriminalising of speeding

but a change to the rule that says criminal fines must go to the Treasury. They should go where they can best be used.

The other thing shown by the London accident figures is that the possibility of a speed camera being a dummy, meaning that there is no camera in the pod, does not seem to encourage people to take a chance. This is just as well, but it would obviously be better if all had functioning videocameras, not only used against motorists but also to catch muggers and other anti-social elements.

We need not get too carried away with the idea of cameras as a cure-all, otherwise moralisers will have them installed in hotel rooms and overlooking park benches. But as a means of saving lives, they are clearly here to stay. Loaded or not.

I SEE that Tony Blair's Cabinet has agreed to spend at least part of their summer holiday in Britain as part of an effort to boost the home tourist trade. Jolly good. I would strongly suggest that all the transport department politicians head for the South West by car, thus enabling them to travel via the roadworks on the M5 bridge at Avonmouth. Yes, the same roadworks that were in place last year.

## Hot August is forecast for dealers

The new car sales bonanza next month could be the busiest ever as motorists rush to take part in what is likely to be the last of its kind. With the August new-registration letter system about to be revamped, "R" registration sales could close to the record 500,000 mark, and spending is forecast to be the highest yet.

A survey by windscreen specialists Autoglass reports that British motorists have 30 per cent more money to spend on their cars this August, and that whereas last year motorists spent £7,060 — on top of selling or part-exchanging their old vehicle — to change cars, this summer that will be closer to £9,000.

Alan Pulham, director of the National Franchised Dealers Association, says: "We anticipate 490,000 customers driving out of the nation's showrooms in brand-new cars this August. Whether it is one of the new breed of superminis, or the multi-purpose vehicle, motorists have never had so many options to choose from. There is a car to suit every pocket."

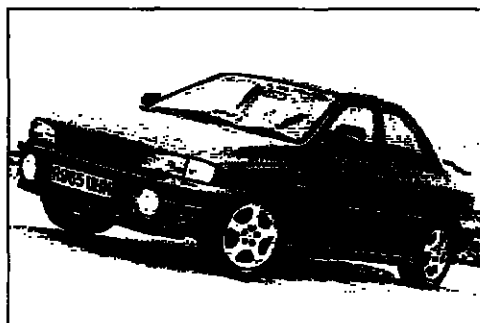
The choice is bewildering, but it does seem that convertibles are making a comeback, and the Renault Megané is one of the most attractive. The Megané's design allows it to convert from a four-seater Cabriolet to a two-seater Roadster. Priced at £16,235 for the 116 mph 1.6-litre, and £19,040 for the 134 mph, 2-litre 16-valve, it offers class-leading performance and value.

Ford revolutionised its image, first with the launch of the Ka, and now of the Puma. Acclaimed as probably the best small car in the world, the striking Ka (£8,015) and the more luxurious Ka2 (£8,860), with power

Ready for the rush on R reg? Vaughan Freeman reports



Spoilt for choice: among the new models are, from left, the Vauxhall Corsa GLS; the Subaru Impreza 2.0; and the Rover 1.8 VCC Coupé



Mitsubishi's new 3000 GT (left) offers power and luxury at a hefty £44,600

steering, central locking and electric windows, have turned small-car run-arounds into trendy fashion statements overnight.

The arrival of the Puma has done much the same by shaking up the Fiesta-sized car segment. The lovely-looking 120 mph 1.7-litre 16-valve Puma, which sells at £14,500, is already in the running for the title of best coupé on the road this year.

The Puma is good, but it pales in comparison with the Lotus Elise. A true sports car, its ultralight aluminium chassis enables the relatively modest 1.8-litre engine to wring maximum fun and supercar acceleration from the £21,000 package.

Lovers of high performance cars who prefer four-wheel drive can choose the Subaru Impreza Catalunya, launched to mark the car firm's 1996 World Rally Champion-

ship title. Only 200 of the turbo-charged two-litre Catalunyas will be sold — each individually numbered and priced at £21,610 — for which customers will get all-wheel drive, air conditioning, gold-coloured alloy wheels, and 145 mph performance.

More than twice as costly is the Mitsubishi 3000 GT, although its £44,600 price seems to offer twice the goodies, including four-wheel drive, four-wheel steering, and electronically controlled suspension, as well as three-year warranty and a top speed in excess of 150 mph.

Motorists looking for a practical car in a more stylish and innovative alternative package than the usual Mondeo/Vectra family saloon, could do worse than consider the Renault Megané Scenic. A two-litre car with

seating for five, the Scenic provides a spacious cabin as well as underfloor lockers and removable seats, and sells from £13,000 to £16,600.

Rover is hoping to boost sales with a range of niche products, in Cabriolet, Coupé and Tourer form, and lower prices, starting with its 1.8-litre VVC (Variable Valve Control) Coupé, priced at £17,995, which borrows the engine from Rover's MGF two-seater sports car.

Rover has taken £1,000 off the price of its 1.6-litre Coupé, now priced at £15,995, and has launched a new 1.6-litre SE Coupé with five-spoke alloy wheels, coloured rear spoiler and integral front fog lamps at £16,995. There is also £1,000 off the 1.6-litre Tourer, now priced at £14,995. The 1.6-litre "niche" Cabriolet is priced from £15,995 to £17,495 for the SE version.

At Vauxhall, the £7,500 to £12,500 Corsa range has been updated and has benefited from having Lotus engineers work on its chassis. As well as claiming the most frugal engine in its class, a 1.6-litre unit capable of almost 49 mpg mixed driving and a top speed of 93 mph, a limited edition Corsa, the £8,395 Sting, features £1,400 worth of "free" equipment, including pearlescent paint.

Britain's fourth best-selling car last year, the £12,700 to £22,000 Vauxhall Vectra, now gets anti-lock braking as standard, with air conditioning available across the whole range.

One of the latest people movers to arrive is the eight-seat Vauxhall Sintra, priced from £19,000 to £25,350. The Sintra comes in 2.2-litre 16-valve form offering 29 mpg in mixed driving, and the less economical 24.6 mpg three-litre V6.

### ROADBLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON  
B506 Great Portland Street, Marylebone/Euston. Carriageway reduced to one lane southbound near the Tube for roadworks.

A2 New Cross. Restrictions on Old Kent Road at various times during the day near to Asylum Road.

A305 Hammermill Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic.

A1209 Bethnal Green Road. Long-term roadworks between Vallance Road and Cambridge Heath Road.

● SOUTH-EAST  
A4 Padworth, Berkshire. Temporary lights at junction with A340.

M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with a contraflow between junctions 1a (M25) and 3 (Wycombe East).

M2 Rochester, Kent. Roadworks with various lane closures.

A26 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent. Road closed at Westree Road, Western Road and Queens Road.

M40 Oxfordshire. Resurfacing work between Watlington and Oxford. Drivers heading to junction 8 of the M40 from Oxford are advised to use the A40 and A418.

M25 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and A3.

● SOUTH-WEST  
A38 Old Bedminster Bridge, Bedminster. Major roadworks with lane closures on Bedminster roundabout.

M5 Bristol. Contraflow across Avonmouth Bridge with westbound entry slip road at junction 7 down to a single lane.

M53 Birkenhead. Carriageway reduced to one lane both ways on Merston spur. 50mph limit.

A69 between Acomb Turning and Hexham West, Northumberland. Major roadworks with contraflow.

A19 between Thornaby-on-Tees and Billingham, North Yorkshire. Major roadworks with two lanes each way and 50mph limit.

M1 West Yorkshire. Major roadworks continue around the Leeds junction with lane closures and speed restrictions. Expect delays on the M1, M62 and Dewsbury Road.

● WALES  
A484 Carmarthenshire. Major roadworks on Francis Well in Tennyrd.

A470 Conwy. Temporary lights at Dolwyddelan for improvement work at Bod Unig.

A5 Padog Bends near Betws Y Coed, Conwy. Temporary lights for building work.

A449 Monmouthshire. Long delays between junction and M4 junction 24 at Newport.

A483 Powys. Temporary lights on Park Road, Bulth Wells.

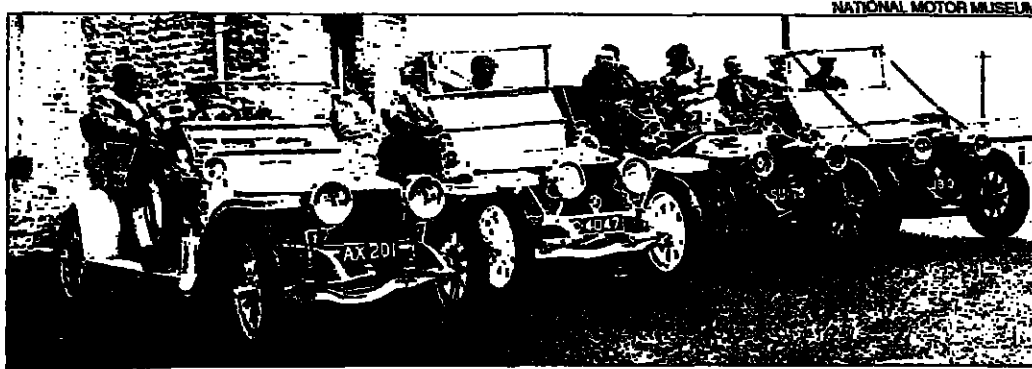
A483 Swansea. Contraflow continues at Fabian Way Docks between Vale of Neath Road and Elba Crescent.

● SCOTLAND  
Aberdeen Anderson Drive, one lane each way between Seafield Road roundabout and Queens Road.

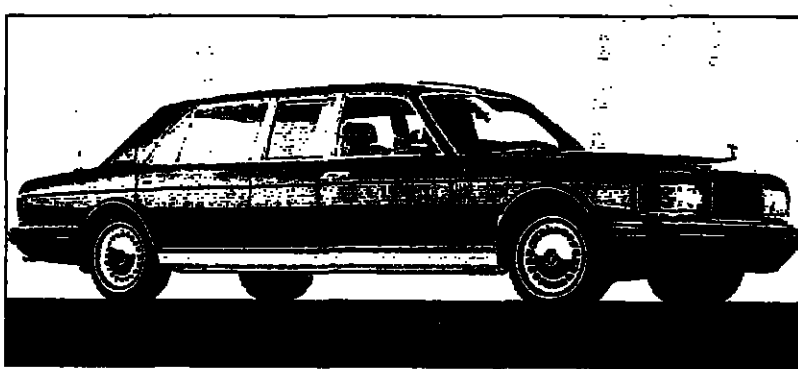
A74 Dumfries and Galloway. Lane closures between Greenhill and Gretna.

M8 Glasgow. Narrow lanes and speed restrictions each way at Cardonald interchange.

M54 Shropshire. Contra-



A century of style: the original Ghost — AX 201 — at a later rally to commemorate the 15,000-mile trial and the Park Ward, the ultimate in bespoke Rolls-Royce luxury



Continued from page 1  
April that year the press at last were given the opportunity to ride in the new car which had been unveiled at the Motor Show. The fastidious Royce had refused to make it available to the public until it met his own uncompromising standards.

Johnson drove the Autocar's correspondent from London to Bexhill and back on the twelfth of the new 40/50hp cars to be completed, and the

journalist was enchanted: "At whatever speed this car is being driven on its direct third, there is no engine so far as sensation goes, nor are one's auditory nerves troubled, driving or standing, by a fuller sound than that emanates from an eight-day clock."

"There is no realisation of driving propulsion; the feeling as the passenger sits either at front or back of the vehicle is one of being wafted through the landscape."

Still unfinished, that car had left the Manchester factory only a few days earlier, but its uncanny silence had already earned it the name of the Silver Ghost, and after that road test it was sent away for its body to be painted with aluminium paint and its metal parts to be silver-plated.

Early in May Silver Ghost was submitted to a 2,000-mile observed long-distance reliability trial under the supervision of what had recently

become the Royal Automobile Club, running most of the way against a white steam car — "a car quite as ghostly in its movements" — and, after some early problems with a faultily adjusted carburettor had been cured, was driven from the south coast to Scotland using only the direct-drive third and overdrive fourth speeds.

But the test that really showed the supremacy of the Silver Ghost took place be-

tween June 21 and August 8, when it covered 15,000 miles, the longest trial distance permitted by the RAC, with only one trifling stop, when the petrol tap shook into the closed position after 629 miles and cut off the supply to the carburettor, causing 60 seconds' delay. To cover 14,371

miles without a breakdown was not only a record but a near miracle in those days, when even the most experienced motorists were frequently benighted by mechanical failures, and when the club dismantled the car after the run, it "was found to be in all respects in perfect running order and in exceptionally good condition... had the car been in the hands of a private owner, no replacements would have been considered necessary". As it was, a few small wearing parts were replaced to bring the car to "as new" condition at the trifling cost of £22s.7d (£21.16p).

The weekly *Motor* called the trial "the best object lesson on the durability of the modern motor that could possibly be given", while the *Automotor Journal* praised "one of the most conclusive — if not the most conclusive — trials of downright merit in touring car construction which the world has ever seen". And when the *Country Gentleman* commented that the trial reflected "credit not only upon the firm, but upon British engineering as a whole", it was speaking no less than the truth. The Silver Ghost was the car which made the name Rolls-Royce a by-

word for excellence and that Rolls-Royce my father ordered in 1908 — one of the limited edition "70hp" models, named Dragonfly — so delighted him that to the end of his days his main car was a Rolls-Royce.

But how I wish he had kept Dragonfly, because today no 70hp models have survived.

'The feeling at front or back is of wafting through the landscape'

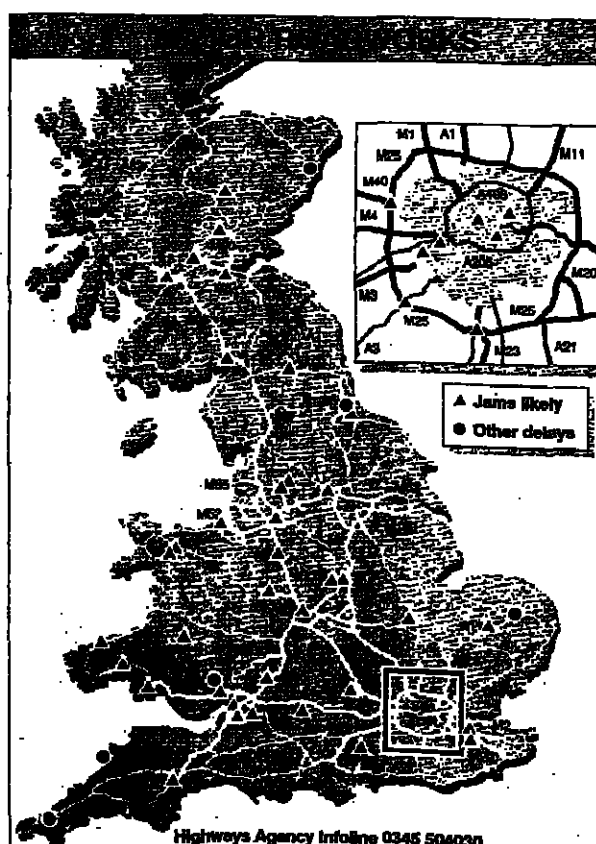
### AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long

THE FIRST CAR TO SWIM THE CHANNEL, A 1962 AMPHICAR, USED A TRIUMPH HERALD ENGINE...

IN 1906 THE WIGGLE-BUG, A RACING VERSION OF THE POPULAR STANLEY STEAMER, RAISED THE LAND SPEED RECORD TO 127.66 mph...

PREDATING THE PEOPLE-CARRIER BY HALF A CENTURY, JAMES LIVING BUILT A BENTLEY WITH SLIDING DOORS AS EARLY AS 1935

F1 SUPREMO BERNIE ECCLESTONE HOLDS THE RECORD FOR BRITAIN'S HIGHEST SALARY — £29.7 million in 1993





# A class of its own from Mercedes

A German revolution has been planned by a Brit. Vaughan Freeman explains

Mercedes-Benz has taken the best part of four decades to follow the lead of the revolutionary Mini and produce its first true front-wheel drive car.

But the German manufacturer, better known for its huge rear-wheel drive limousines and executive expressos, is hoping that its new A-class will, like the Mini before it, prove a crucial turning point in the way cars are designed and leave the competition clamouring to catch up.

When Alec Issigonis unveiled his tiny car, there was nothing to touch it for cute styling, the extraordinarily space efficient packaging, and the way seating for four and a modest amount of luggage could pack into its 10ft length.

Mercedes has moved the goalposts in a similar manner — with the aid of a British designer — and, just as the Mini did in 1959, redefined car design by defying the accepted pigeon-holing into estate, saloon, hatchback or Espace-style people mover.

Sieve Mattin, 32, joined Mercedes straight after graduating from Coventry Polytechnic 10 years ago, and is responsible for the A-class exterior styling.

Driving the A-class, the feel is of being at the wheel of something much bigger. Inside, it is all Mercedes, from the three-pointed star on the steering wheel to the robust feeling of security and quality build. Only when you step out, and down, from it are you reminded that, far from being in a Mercedes saloon four feet longer, you are in the half-pint sized A-class.

"When the Mini came out, people did not realise just how revolutionary a car it was," Mattin says. "Only after a few years had gone by did that realisation come about. The A-class is just as revolutionary as the Mini was in its time, because it offers so much more than other cars, and all in one package."

"The initial problem we had at Mercedes, used to building saloons, coupés and limousines, was to come to grips with the proportions of the A-class, using a one-box design for maximum interior space."

Mercedes got round that problem by creating in effect a two-storey car, with all the innards such as the petrol tank, axles, battery and exhaust in the "basement", safely stashed under the floor of the body. The occupants sit above the car's busy bits, half a foot or so higher than in a normal road car, which makes them safer in a crash. At the same time, a revolutionary S-shaped engine and gearbox was created which sits at an angle beneath the front passengers, again to save space.

The engine design also increases safety because in an accident the engine is pushed down and back, instead of through the front bulkhead and back into the passenger compartment to break legs. The design works so well that inside there is only 4mm less length than in the Mercedes C-class, which is 94in longer on the outside than the A-class.

Helmut Petri, project development manager, says: "The car posed many conflicting problems for us. It had to be short and light, at the same time it had to share the



Helmut Petri, project development manager, and the Mercedes A-class: "It's our interpretation of innovation and tradition. It will give a new, dynamic and young look to the image of the marque"



Marketed as a modern lifestyle vehicle, the A-class advertising campaign uses sun, sea ...

## A-CLASS 160

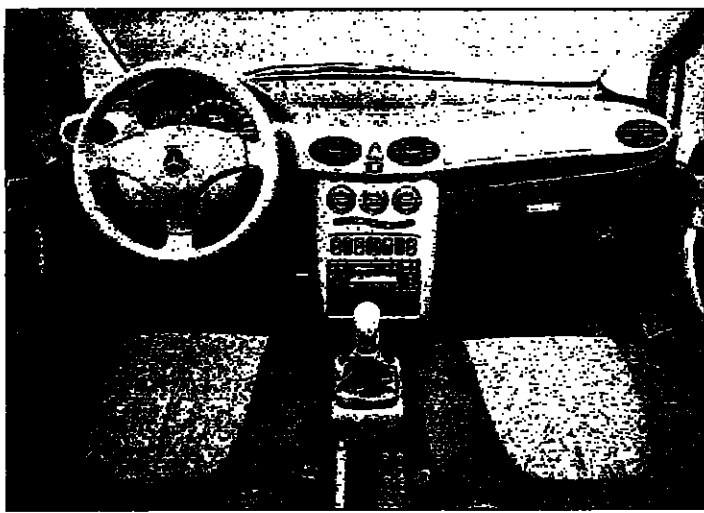
Engine: 1.6-litre four-cylinder producing 102bhp at 5,250rpm, and driving front wheels through five-speed manual gearbox.

Performance: Top speed 113mph, 0-60mph in around 10 seconds.

Economy: Combined cycle 41mpg.

Equipment: Twin and side airbags, anti-lock braking, radio-cassette, central locking. Options include fold-back louvred sunroof and cycle racks.

Price: About £17,000.



The feel is of being at the wheel of something much bigger

Mercedes virtues of comfort and safety, and it had to be inexpensive.

"The result is a car which is our interpretation of innovation and of tradition. It will give a new, dynamic and young look to the image of the Mercedes-Benz marque."

Mercedes sees its A-class as a sort of automotive Daley Thompson, a roadgoing decathlete able to excel in all disciplines. It will need to. It has spent around £1 billion over the past three years on the A-

class and plans to sell 200,000 a year. Of those just under 20,000 will sell after the car goes on sale here this time next year.

Priced at between £14,000 for the entry level A140 1.4-litre Classic, and £17,000 for the A160 1.6-litre Avantgarde, it will be by far the cheapest Mercedes to go on sale in Britain, and the company expects 80 per cent of customers will be "conquest" sales, motorists usually seen in a Ford, VW or Vauxhall. It will come in three trim levels,

and with 1.4-litre (82bhp), or 1.6-litre (102bhp) petrol engines, as well as a 1.7-litre diesel (60bhp) and a 1.7-litre turbodiesel (90bhp).

The five-door A-class seats five, and Mercedes claims more than 70 seating permutations, with all but the driver's seat removable, offering a maximum of up to 1,700 litres of space, enough for a couple of bicycles.

Standard equipment includes dual airbags, anti-lock braking, central locking, electric windows

and power steering, and Mercedes is also considering whether to lengthen its current warranty to three years for the A-class. Servicing too will be cheaper, with trips to the garage coming up only every 25,000 miles, cutting maintenance bills by a claimed 30 per cent.

As well as the five-speed manual, there is a clutchless manual, a sort of automatic with a gearstick, which seems a remarkably pointless application of technology. The instinct, as one road tester found,

was still to try and use the absent clutch when moving the gearstick, which only resulted in an unwanted emergency stop on the motorway as he hit the brake instead of the non-existent clutch.

The manual, in contrast, is easy, the clutch light, and even with the 1.4-litre there is plenty of pep, although the fifth gear is a pure fuel-saving overdrive. For motorway overtaking the driver needs to drop down to fourth for meaningful acceleration. The 1.6-litre is excel-

lent in town and on dual carriageways, quiet and responsive, which means a promised more powerful version due in two years should be as much fun again.

Whether the A-class is considered an estate or people mover, hatch or spacious saloon, the German manufacturer is happy to let others decide. Certainly it is an intriguing Jack of all trades. Time will tell whether, like the Mini, it turns out to be a time-defying masterpiece.



... and air to suggest an image that echoes the fun of Alec Issigonis's Mini nearly 40 years ago

## Morag Preston visits a car-dealer with a new slant on making the showroom woman-friendly — add a hairdresser



New Chapters: "In an average week, the hair salon sees 200 people. A lot pop in and look around the showroom"

## Parked next to the rollers

The whirl of hair-dryers and scent of shampoo is as likely to greet customers at a car dealership in Birmingham as the rumble of engines and smell of petrol.

Bromsgrove-based Clarks Motor Services has opened an ladies' hairdressers in a bid to entice women in. Female professionals are being tempted by the time-saving concept of getting their hair injection adjusted and their split ends seen to in one go. Buy a car, and you get a free haircut.

With a hairstyle so out of date that a Lada cuts more of a dash, I headed in search of a new look. Sweeping through huge double doors, I caught a sneaky last look at my thatch on the side of a shiny new Corolla. Snaking past tubs of plastic plants and a three-tier fountain, I was led upstairs to the new Chapters salon.

"Hello, my name is Emma, I am your stylist for the day," said my copper-coiffured assistant. Flicking through inspirational pictures, we decided on a hairstyle à la actress Gina Gershon. Massaging Awapuhi shampoo into my hair, Emma Broad-

hurst told me I had just missed an example of the perfect customer: a no-nonsense businesswoman who had dropped off her car to be serviced, and had her hair cut at the same time. It is women like her Clarks is trying so hard to attract.

According to Martin Stannard, dealer principal: "When we were planning the new site, we decided to lease the mezzanine floor. Rather than go for solicitors or accountants, we thought a hair salon would introduce a complementary clientele to the dealership."

All too aware that car salesmen have long held a reputation for "high-pressure sharp-practice", Mr Stannard wants women to feel more comfortable walking into the showroom. "The biggest problem a dealership has is getting people through the door. A lot of ladies are buying cars, or have the deciding factor, and

it is about exposing our products to that audience. In an average week, the hair salon sees 200 people. A lot of ladies pop in and look around the showroom. They sit upstairs and can look down at us without feeling intimidated."

A wine bar and bistro to be opened next door is the next stage in Mr Stannard's plan to entice new customers into the showroom. Clarks also owns a 17-seater minibus, a fleet of child-sized motorised cars, and a bouncy castle, which it lends to local schools.

"It's another form of advertising, but it benefits the community at the same time," he says.

Sieve Evans, a partner at Chapters who is renting the site on a six-year lease, is enjoying the benefits of the cross-marketing ploy. The next development in their relationship is combining databases and sharing staff training. "Clarks approached

us because we had outgrown our other salon up the road. In the States, hairdressers are found in more unusual places, so we thought it was a good idea."

"I was worried that not having a shop frontage might be a disadvantage, but the bistro will soon be here and the Bromsgrove Rovers football ground next door is being turned into a supermarket. When we first told people that we were moving to a car dealership, they said 'You're kidding'. They had the idea that it was all dirt cars and greasy cars, but it's not like that. A couple of people have bought cars on the back of it. One lady wanted to write a cheque right there and then."

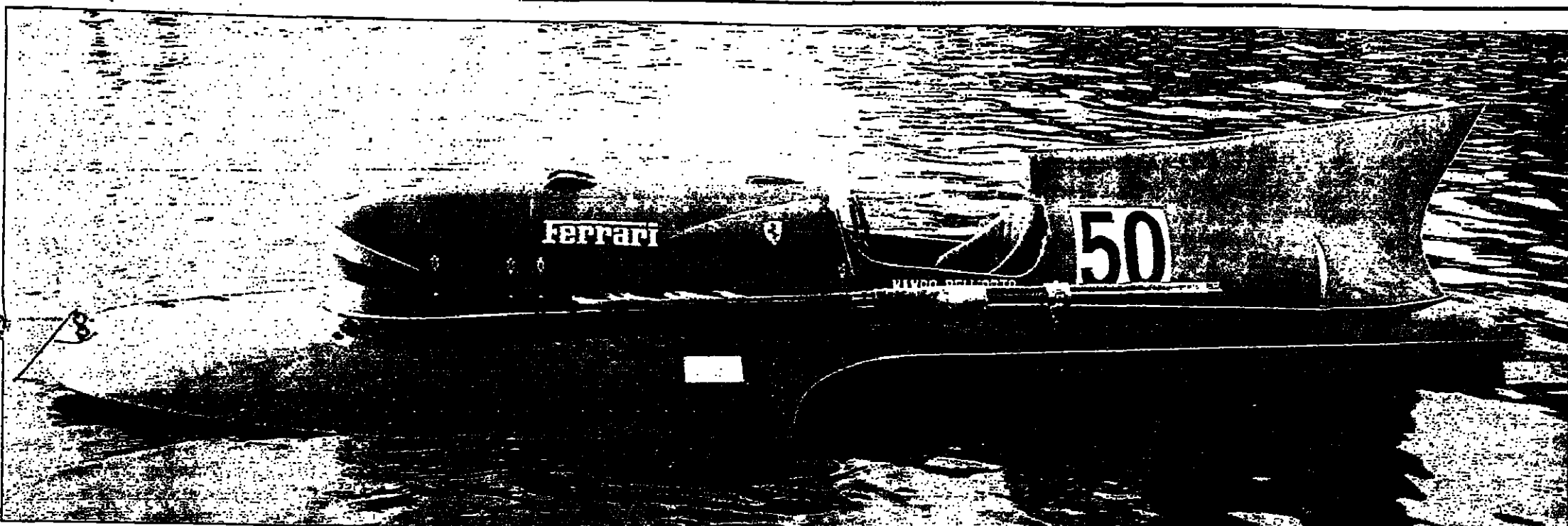
As for my hair? Emma daubed it in sculpting foam and doused me in soft spray, but I did not look anything like Gina Gershon. Having been persuaded to test drive rollers in my hair for the first time, I will put it down to experience. My new bouffant was bigger than an over-inflated car tyre, and a side-parting is definitely not for me. I would rather have a Landcruiser any day.

They can sit down at the showroom without feeling intimidated









The 1953 Ferrari/Timossi Hydroplane, which wealthy Italian Achille Castoldi persuaded Enzo Ferrari to work on as a challenger for world water speed records. It topped 150mph on Lake Iseo

# The Ferrari that made waves

A million-dollar hydroplane and a car stained with murder are part of a £7m auction. Tony Dawe reports

Is it a car, is it a boat... is it really a Ferrari? The answer to all these questions about the unique, sleek red machine which goes on sale at Silverstone next Saturday is "Yes".

The Ferrari/Timossi Hydroplane was built in 1953 by the famous Italian manufacturer with a supercharged motor racing engine to challenge for world water speed records. It topped 150mph on Lake Iseo in northern Italy, a record for its class, and later reached an unofficial 178mph.

In recent years, the million-dollar machine has graced the Ferrari museum and major motoring events throughout Europe, but on July 26 it will go under the hammer as the star attraction at an auction staged by Coys of Kensington, West London, as part of its international historic festival at Britain's Grand Prix circuit.

It will be joined by more orthodox Ferraris in a sale which is expected to raise £7 million, the largest auction of its type in Britain — and probably Europe — for at least five years.

The sale will also offer cars with an intriguing, romantic and even tragic history, including the HRG Emperor which played a part in the murder of motor racing enthusiast David Blakely and the execution of his killer, Ruth Ellis. In complete contrast, the sale will also offer a 1936 baby Fiat called the Topolino, meaning "little mouse".

The Ferrari Hydroplane was born out of the desire of Achille Castoldi, a wealthy Italian. Through his friendship with racing drivers Luigi Villorosi and Alberto Ascari, Castoldi obtained access to Enzo Ferrari and persuaded him to spend more time and money than he would have wished on converting and supercharging a 4.5-litre V12 engine to fit into a trifoil design called ARNO XI.

The decision by its private

owner to sell this famous machine at auction and the entry in the sale of a rare 1955 Ferrari 857/S, one of the most successful competition cars of all time and another million-dollar vehicle, has encouraged other owners to put fabulous cars into the auction," says Tim Schofield of Coys.

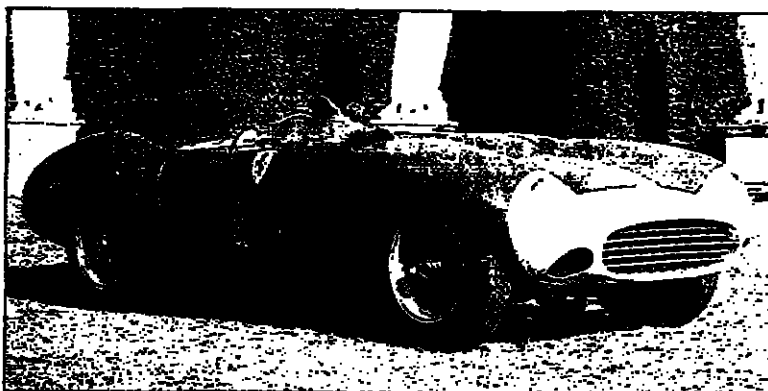
"With Ferrari celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, some collectors have decided this is an ideal time to sell and we will be offering 30 of the marque from a 1953 212 series Cabriolet to a 1990 F40."

The sale has been further boosted by 17 cars from Hans Dürst, the Swiss ice hockey champion who became a wealthy motor dealer. They include a 1972 Lamborghini Miura, one of a handful of cars which can claim to have influenced future design, and a 1957 BMW 507 two-seater roadster, one of the models that helped establish the company as a top manufacturer.

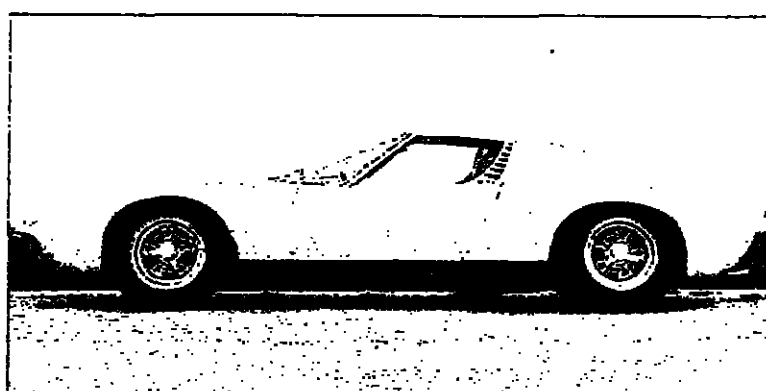
Much attention at the viewings next Thursday, Friday and Saturday will, inevitably, focus on Blakely's dream car which was used in *Dance with a Stranger*, the film about his relationship with Ellis.

The Emperor was built for Blakely by an Aston Martin engineer around a new engine developed by HRG from a twin-cam version of a Singer 1500cc engine. The racing enthusiast had spent much of his inheritance on the car, to the annoyance of Ellis, and this extravagance was one source of increasing tension between the engaged couple.

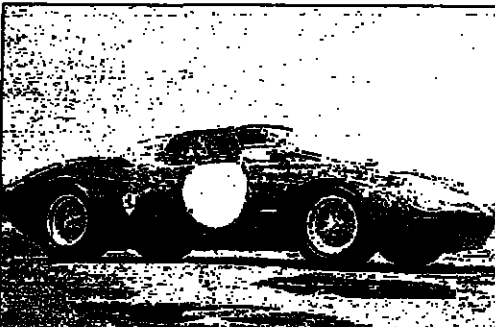
On his debut in the car at the 1954 Boxing Day meeting at Brands Hatch, Blakely finished just behind a Connaught-powered Lotus and in front of the Cooper-Bristol and was looking forward to future victories. Before he could race again, however, Blakely was shot by Ellis.



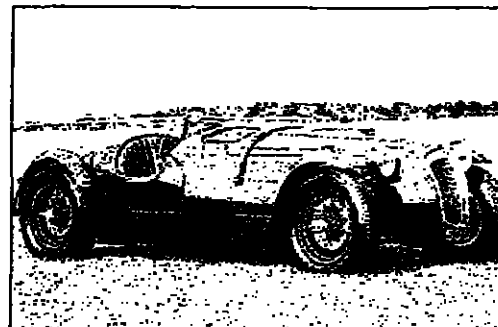
The million-dollar 1955 Ferrari 857/S, which won five times in nine starts



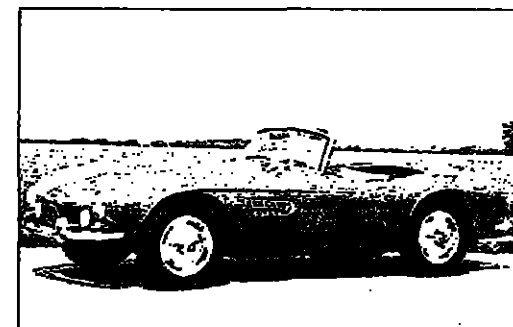
The 1972 Lamborghini Miura from the Hans Dürst collection



A 1964 Ferrari 250 Le Mans, one of only 32 built



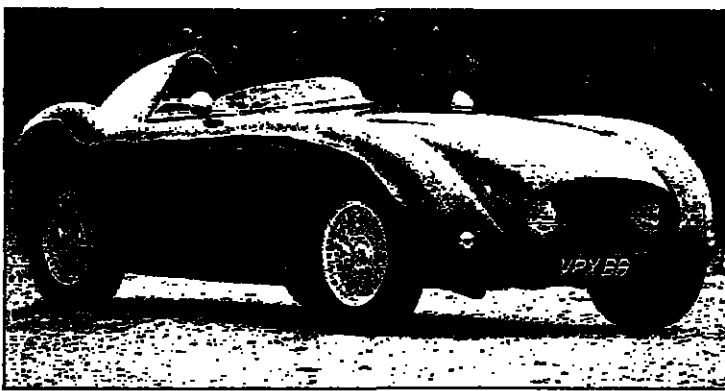
A Frazer Nash Continental V8 Le Mans Replica



A 1957 BMW 507, also from the Dürst collection



Rupert Everett and Miranda Richardson as David Blakely and Ruth Ellis in *Dance with a Stranger*, the film that also featured the HRG Emperor (right) which caused increasing tension between the ill-fated couple



## His Majesty went that way

King Alfonso XIII's means of escape from angry husbands tops the bill in a veteran and classic collection sale

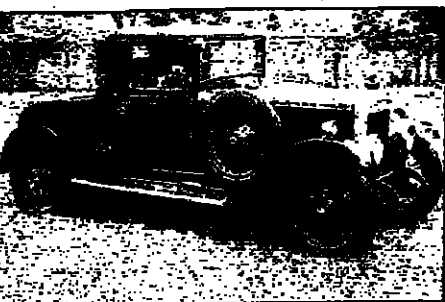
King Alfonso XIII of Spain is rumoured to have used the remarkable performance of the Hispano-Suiza 15T to out-distance many an irate and jealous husband. On Friday a perfect restoration of the 1912 model will be pursued with equal eagerness by car enthusiasts when it tops the bill at a veteran and classic car sale, Tony Dawe writes.

The car, designed by the Swiss engineer Marc Birkigt, cost £50,000 to restore and is expected to fetch twice that amount at the Brooks auction at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu.

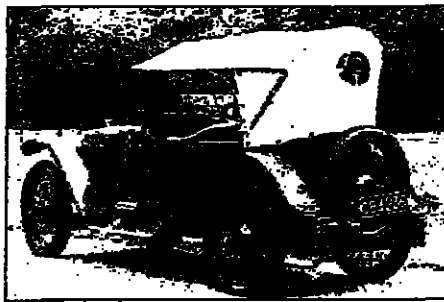
It is described as "a short-chassis 3.6-litre, three-to-four seater sports torpedo" and carries the name Alfonso XIII because of the Spanish monarch's support for the model.

The 15T's remarkable achievements included lapping Brooklands at 81.5mph in 1914 and claiming first place in the tourist class at the Gallion hill climb, a 1-in-10 gradient, at an average speed of 54mph.

Brooks claims that the restored Hispano-Suiza lives up to the claim in the company's original catalogue that "the facility of manipulation, the quick response and great force of the motor render our various models extremely easy to drive at all speeds and make them cars par excellence for touring and for sport. Almost as striking when the



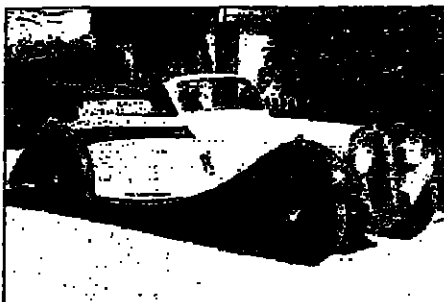
The 1927 "Doctor's Coupe" Daimler



Alfonso XIII's 1912 Hispano-Suiza 15T



The historic 2.6-litre Aston Martin DB2



The V12 Atalanta, one of only two survivors

auction opens for viewing next Thursday will be a royal blue 1927 Daimler. With its long bonnet, protruding rounded hood and spare wheel mounted on the running board, the car would look perfectly at home in *Bonnie and Clyde* but its coachwork was given the very respectable name of "Doctor's Coupe" in the 1920s.

It is comprehensively equipped with nickel electric lighting, windscreen-mounted swivel spotlight, wooden lathed petrol tank, opening windscreen and carriage-style loop door handles. Its basic price in 1927 was £490; on Friday it is expected to fetch between £9,000 and £12,000. Honours for style may be

taken by a slightly more modern but even rarer model: one of only two V12 Atalantas believed to have survived. The marque was the brainchild of A.C. Bertelli of Aston Martin and Alfred Gough, designer of the overhead camshaft Frazer Nash engine. Founded in 1937, Atalanta Motors of Staines specialised

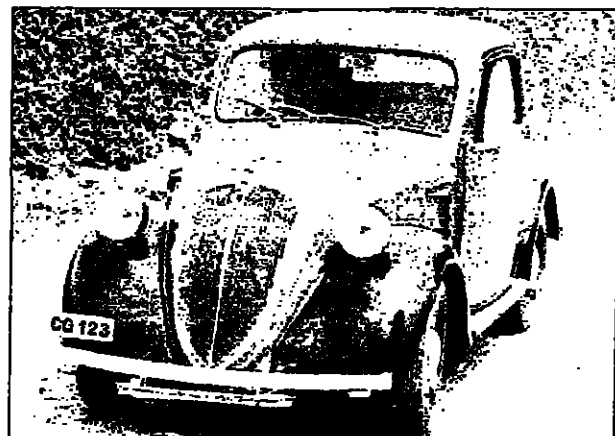
in hand-built sports cars of advanced design, but production failed to recommence after the Second World War.

The 1939 drophead coupe featured in the sale was restored between 1988 and 1994 and finished in pale blue over dark blue with dark blue leather interior and is expected to fetch around £35,000.

Among the sports cars on offer is an historic ex-works 2.6-litre Aston Martin DB2, driven in the 1950s by Reg Parnell. In his hands, the touring coupe made successful appearances in the 1952 Mille Miglia, the Prix de Berne and the Shelsley Walsh hill climb. Angela Brown, daughter of David, who owned Aston Martin, won a Silverstone race in the car before it was sent to Australia.

An earlier and equally desirable racer in the sale is a 1927 Vauxhall 30/98. A previous version had become the first production sports car to lap Brooklands at more than 100mph in March 1923. The model on offer carries the sporting Velox four-seat tourer body and went to South Africa in the 1930s, returning to Britain in 1991.

One of the outstanding aspects of the sale is a group of handsome Edwardian cars from the estate of the late Clive Unsworth, including some of the earliest and finest examples of Cadillac, Pierce-Arrow, Renault and Crossley, dating from 1911 to 1920.



The extremely rare first-year production 1936 Fiat Topolino

### READER OFFER THE TIMES

## Save £10 on interactive Ferrari CD-Roms

Today *The Times* offers you the chance to own the CD-Rom, *Interactive Guide to Ferrari Road Cars*, for only £19.95 — £10 less than the normal retail price.

The comprehensive three-hour programme is innovative, interesting, informative — and fun. Produced with help from the Ferrari Owners Club, the CD-Rom has an in-depth archive of hundreds of models, 500 photographs, video clips and a helpful narrative.

Included in the package is a three-language, easy-to-follow instruction booklet, and a virtual reality lap of the Silverstone Grand Prix circuit — with a Ferrari roar soundtrack.

To order, simply complete the coupon below or call our order hotline on 01525 851945.



### THE TIMES FERRARI CD-ROM ORDER FORM

Title .....	Initials .....	Or debit my Visa/Mastercard number: .....
Surname .....	.....	
Address .....	.....	
Postcode .....	.....	
Please send me ..... (qty) Ferrari CD-Rom(s) @ £19.95 each, inc delivery.		
I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to The Times CD-Rom offer FT658. Please write name and address on the back of all cheques.		
Value ..... No .....		
Print Name ..... Date .....		
Signature ..... Exp date .....		
Send coupon with remittance to arrive by September 19, 1997, to: The Times CD-Rom Offer, FT658, PO Box 333, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7ZD.		
Allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Offer available in the UK and Eire only, subject to availability. Please tick box if you do not wish to receive further details from The Times or companies approved by us. <input type="checkbox"/>		



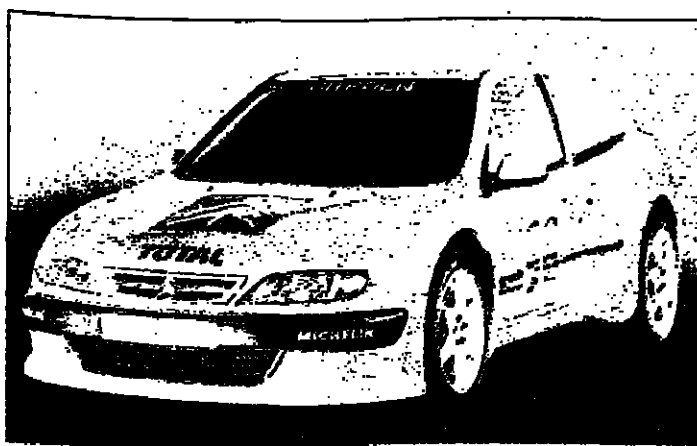








Despite the marketing hype and £500m investment, Kevin Eason is less than impressed by the Citroën Xsara



The Xsara sports version being developed from the VTS 16V coupé

## Euro-bland however you pronounce it

It's all right for you lot out there: I have to read the worst of this tosh and then do a translation before it gets to your newspaper. Do marketing men believe any of this drivel they pump at poor, hapless little chaps like me? Do they ever analyse publicity blurbs so outrageously daft that even someone even as terminally glib as me can see straight through them?

Take this paragraph, straight from the press release for a new car to our showrooms in November, and try to guess what it means: this car is "both classic and modern, luxurious but fluid". Eh? Anyway, it apparently also has "pure and sober external styling" which "reflects the central theme of elegance. The combination of a plunging nose and a more compact rear give [the car] the looks of a spunky thoroughbred. The muscled short rear suggests latent power."

With those inspiring words chiming in my addled brain, I walked all around this car. I peered inside. I looked in the boot. I even had a look underneath — but it still looked like a Citroën to me. Not even a very interesting Citroën.

Then there was the reasoning

### CITROËN XSARA

**Engines:** Four-cylinder 1.4-litre — 2-litre petrol plus 1.9-litre diesel and turbo-diesel. 1.4 gives 75bhp, 2-litre 167bhp and 1.9TD 90bhp.

**Performance:** 1.4-litre: 0-62mph in 14.1 secs, 110mph. 2-litre: 8.7 secs, 138mph. 1.9TD: 12.8 secs, 111mph.

**Economy:** (combined cycle) 1.4-litre: 39.2mpg; 2-litre 30mpg; 1.9TD 42.8mpg.

**Features:** Child-lock warning, audio controls on steering wheels.

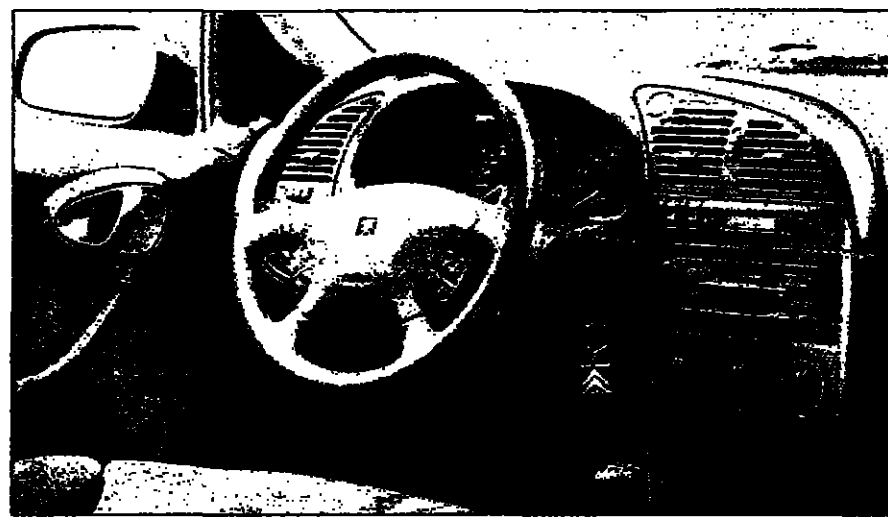
**Prices:** From £11,000.

behind the name for the replacement for the ZX Xsara. Handy hint from Citroën here: it is pronounced Zara — captures the imagination apparently, implying French taste and high standing. Or look at it another way. Xsara is the latest batty name to follow the Xantia and the Paxo, sorry Saxo.

Ignore the hyperbole because this new Citroën frankly looks



Quirky is out, conformity is in: Citroëns used to be pretty, but it has been decreed that they must not step out of the Euro-line if they are to muscle into Ford Escort territory



At least the Xsara's interior detailing is clever and Citroën introduces a height and reach adjustable steering column

much like the others. I sometimes wonder what the designers get up to for the four years it takes to put together an all-new car like the Xsara. I can only assume that Art Blakeslee, Citroën's genial American design chief, starts off with something radical which committee upon committee gradually whittles down to the same Euro-bland we see from every manufacturer.

Citroëns used to be quirky, they used to be pretty — all swooping noses and bodywork like a missile. They stood out from the crowd. But they didn't hang together too well, always a disincentive when you are looking for big sales — and Citroën wants to shift 300,000 Xsaras a year, with around two-thirds for export. So the PSA Peugeot-Citroën conglomerate of soon-to-retire boss

Jacques Calvet decreed that Citroën must not step out of the Euro-line if it was to muscle into Ford Escort territory: quirky is out, conformity is in.

The PR boys might be sending a different message in the press release, but truth is that when you see the Xsara (pronounced Xantia) you will decide it looks like a Xantia (pronounced Zantia) squashed

shorter. Nothing radical here: it seems for an investment close to £500 million.

To be fair, the Xsara looks pleasantly not bad, quite nice-ish. Er, that's it. The seven engines — five petrol from 1.4 to 2-litre, two 1.9 diesels, one turbo-charged — are carried over from ZX and most of the features, switchgear and trims are all recognisably Citroën.

Detailing is clever with lots of storage space and Citroën introduces a height and reach adjustable steering column for a more relaxed driving position. Hi-fi controls come on to the steering wheel and the interior does live up to Citroën's claim to be the roomiest in its class, with a big boot and bags of legroom. Citroën has concentrated hard on the sort of big-car features normally missing in this class: open the door and it clicks through three positions so you don't throw the door open in a car park and whack the car next door.

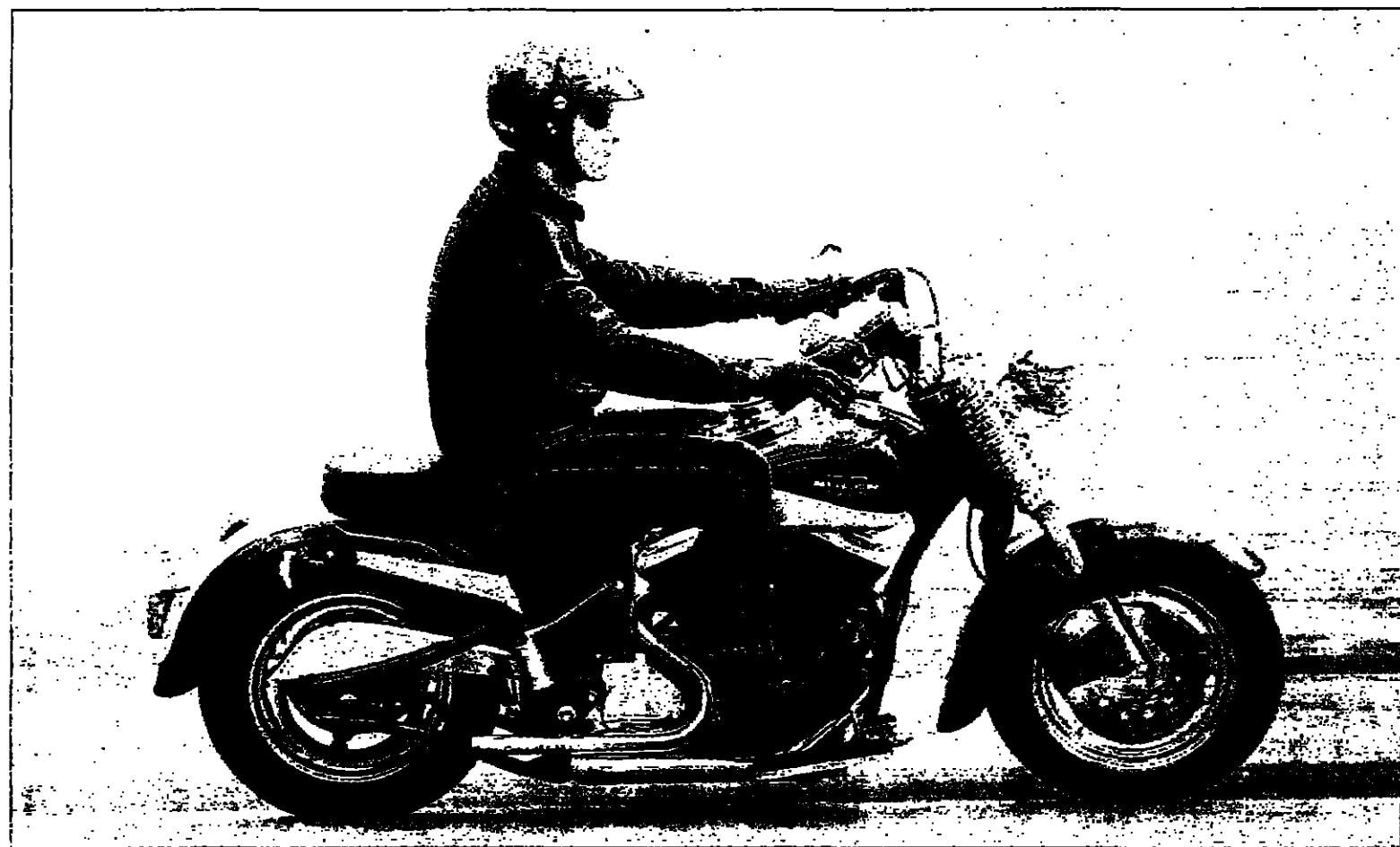
Citroën says safety has been improved with doors which have an extra lower connecting point to resist frontal impacts. Side airbags will also be available. And Citroën kicks into touch its keypad security system, which needed the driver to

punch in a code before turning the ignition. The Xsara gets a security system activated by a simple, two-button remote transponder key.

Alongside the hatchbacks comes a coupé, which will also be available as a roaring 2-litre, 167 brake horse power sportster, badged VTS, with a 0-62mph time of 8.7 seconds and top speed of 124mph. The rest of the range is slightly more staid: the 75bhp 1.4 swaps speed (0-62 in 14.1 seconds, top 109mph) for frugality, offering an average 39mpg, while the non-turbo diesel's 44mpg is positively miserly.

So Xsara joins the UK market high on equipment and detail, with proven engines and potentially good reliability levels, even if it does not look much different to the competition. No prices announced yet, but Xsara will be competitive, probably starting around £11,000, to punch a hole in a segment of the market for smallish cars which claims around a third of all sales.

Meanwhile, as you save up pound coins until November, feast your eyes on the classic and modern, luxurious but fluid style of the new Xsara (pronounced Zara) and if you find out what it all means, let me know.



Long, low, heavy and softly-sprung, the Excelsior had plenty of low-rev torque, and responded to a crack of the throttle with thrilling acceleration

## Roaring out of the Twenties

Excelsior-Henderson? Who they? A reborn American rival for Harley-Davidson, reports Roland Brown

Mention the name Excelsior-Henderson to the average motorcyclist today, and the chances are that they won't know what you are talking about. Repeat those words in a few years' time, and you might be offered a ride on the big V-twin cruiser of that name parked in the same rider's garage.

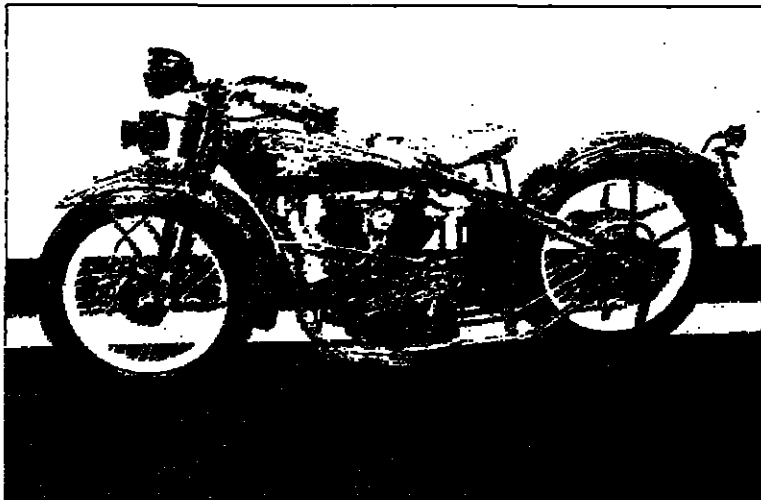
Excelsior-Henderson, one of the "Big Three" American bike manufacturers in the 1920s, is on the way back. Late next year, a 1,386cc heavyweight cruiser called the Super X is due to begin rolling off the production line of a new Excelsior-Henderson factory in Belle Plaine, Minnesota. A legend whose last model was introduced more than 60 years ago will be back on the road.

It was only a matter of time. Such has been the recent success of Harley-Davidson — the Milwaukee firm's sales are soaring; turnover exceeds \$1 billion — that entrepreneurs were bound to try and take a piece of the pie. The most

likely revival was that of Indian, which built V-twins until 1953 and is the most famous of the fallen American marques. But although several individuals claimed ownership of the trademark, and outlined plans for impressive new bikes, none could raise the necessary finance. The Indian trail went cold.

Excelsior-Henderson is less well-known than Indian, but that was not the case in the 1920s, when the firm's Excelsior V-twins and Henderson four-cylinder bikes were built at Chicago in the world's largest motorcycle factory. Fast and luxurious, they were ridden by Hollywood stars and celebrities including Charles Lindbergh and Henry Ford. But America's Depression, plus the falling cost of cars, led to the factory's closure in 1931.

The Excelsior-Henderson name remained unused until 1992. Then, brothers David and Dan Hanlon acquired rights to Excelsior-Henderson, quit their jobs and set about raising some money. The brothers, both in their forties, shared a



passion for bikes — and, more importantly, each had a successful background in business.

By the summer of 1993 the Hanlons had raised \$3.5 million of private backing, employed several people in their headquarters at Minneapolis and had begun work on the first Super X prototype. The investment required is \$20-30 million, so we need a serious backer," admitted David Hanlon. "But if we don't find the money immediately, we'll do what every company from

Harley-Davidson to General Motors has done — keep trying."

The Hanlons' timing was right, as was their approach. Last August, Excelsior-Henderson was awarded \$13m of local funding towards a \$30m factory at Belle Plaine, Minnesota, near the farm where the brothers grew up. In September, Excelsior announced that a further \$11.5m had been raised by selling stock in the company.

There is now little doubt that Excelsior-Henderson will soon be



David and Dan Hanlon — above with David's wife, Jennie, another director of the company — got their timing and approach right and have won funding for a \$30 million factory in Minnesota

engineer Allan Hurd, a key figure in establishing Triumph's factory at Hinckley and who now faces a similar task at Excelsior-Henderson, having left Leicestershire to set up and run the Minnesota plant. "It was a big step, but life's all about challenges and this project was very exciting," he says.

The firm's first model shares its Super X name with the old Excelsior company's best-known bike. Its format blends traditional American styling and features — high handlebars, footboards, big mudguards and a large-capacity V-twin engine — with modern engineering. The 1386 cc motor is cooled by air and oil and features four-valve cylinder heads, twin overhead camshafts and a power output of about 80bhp — considerably more than any standard Harley.

My short ride on a prototype did

not allow firm conclusions, but was enough to give the impression that the Super X will have much to offer riders looking for an American-style cruiser. The Excelsior is long, low, heavy and softly-sprung; built for relaxed and comfortable travel at a pace well below its likely 120mph top speed. The fuel-injected motor had plenty of low-rev torque, and responded to a crack of the throttle with thrilling acceleration.

It remains to be seen how the American public will respond to the Super X, which will cost about \$20,000 (£12,500) — competitive with a top-of-the-range Harley — when it goes on sale across America. (Exports are scheduled for one or two years later.) But for Excelsior-Henderson, the signs are good. It looks as though Harley-Davidson will soon have some serious American competition once again.



کذا فی الأصل

## REGISTRATION

**6 BRW**  
on retention.  
£6,500

**18 ET**  
£10,000

Tel: 01705  
offers in ex  
Tel: 0410

**35 CAM**  
**£3,500**  
Contact David Kelly  
on Tel.  
**0113 2718434**

**4 ELW**  
OIRO £10,000  
Tel:  
**01642 712635**

**5 EXU**  
on retention  
£10,000 ono  
**TEL**  
**0836 699325**

**JNF 4**  
£2,500.  
On retention.  
No agents.  
Tel:01702 529024

**1 MMH**  
£12,500  
0181 455 0771 (H)  
0171 600 7000 (D)

## Mercedes-Benz Used Cars

**Rose & Young**  
88P SL500 A 97 Mod11T £79,995  
1991 SL500 A 97 175 221 221

94M SL300 A/C .....121 594,995  
 94M SL500 A/C .....327 157,995  
 95K 500SL A/C, RS4 i4t 148,995  
 95K 500SL Conv A/C .....377 234,995  
 97P 320SL A/C .....571 148,995  
 94L E230 Cpe A/C A/C23 130,995  
 97D E230 Est A/C .....451 122,995  
 98L E230 A/C .....377 116,995  
 94M 260E A/C .....507 115,995  
 94M E260A Eleg A/C .....507 115,995  
 97P C230 SChgd A/C .....571 132,995  
 94M C230 Eleg A/C .....521 120,995

**01737 770404**  
 Open 7 days a week  
 A member company of  
*Fininvest plc*

**MERCEDES**

**C180 ELEGANCE**  
 Ann. '95M, 1.9L  
 Brilliant Steel, FMSB,

split rear seats, ABS, PAS, electric windows, central locking, electric sun roof, £1,000 CD stereo.  
**£17,950**

**CLK**

### 3.2 ELEGANCE

**control, h/wants, e/scars, roof,  
ESP, offers.**

**0171 537 1881 (a).**

**E280**  
December 93L, Auto,  
Almondine Red/Cream, air

£20,000  
01279 504403

**E280**

93/14 Tourmaline green,  
mushroom cloth, walnut  
facia, air con, Clifford alarm,  
sony stereo, FMBSH,  
excellent condition.

**£21,500**  
Tel: (w) 0181 559 2111/  
(h) 0181 508 0808.

**\$500  
COUPE**  
1993 L, Nautic blue, cream hide,  
climate / clear coats  etc.

FMBS. 2 owners. 83k. mls. superb  
 unmarked cond.  
 £35,950 ono  
 (h) 01734 793110

(w) 01734 413454  
(m) 0802 311322

**C180 Elegance**  
Auto, '94 M, white,  
FMBSH, 10 disc CD,  
20% - 1000000

**£17,500**  
**Tel: 0181 948 0576/**  
**0181 333 0007**

0181 332 0077



David Long looks at the great racing heritage of Renault and traces a unique survivor



## A marque that has led for 90 years

First, second and third at Silverstone on Saturday, five World Championships, two British world champions, more than 85 race wins and for nine years the power behind the Williams team.

Yet how many enthusiasts, minutely conversant with every Villeneuve or Alesi lap time, realise that Renault's grand prix heritage dates back more than 90 years? On the weekend of June 26 1906 held over two days on a 64-mile circuit just outside Le Mans, the first grand prix race ever run was won by a 13-litre, four-cylinder Renault AK.

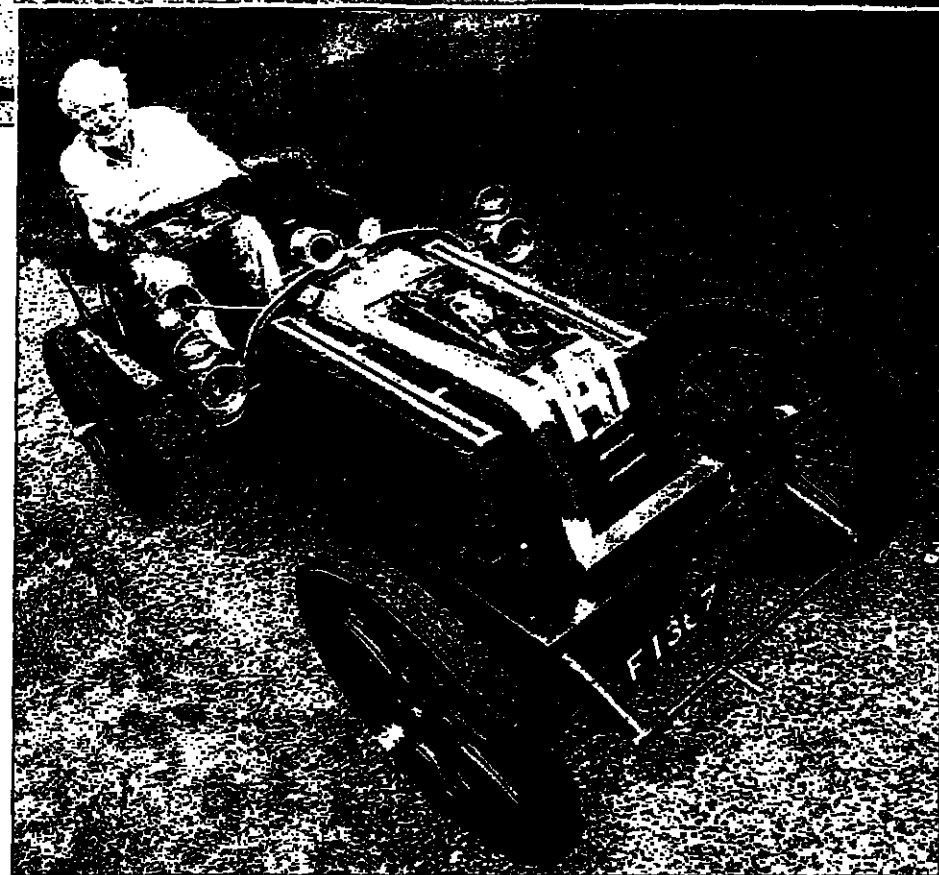
By any standards it was an historic win, but for Renault it was merely another in a string of victories and part of Louis Renault's determination to put his pioneering designs before the public. The great thing at the time was not circuit racing but long-distance town-to-town events. Louis won his first of these in 1899, piloting a single-cylinder car from Paris to Ostend, a feat he repeated the following year along with

Paris-Bordeaux, Paris-Toulouse and Paris-Berlin. But it was in 1902 that the company really made its mark when his brother Marcel took the company's new 3.4-litre Model K to first place in the celebrated Paris-Vienna marathon, beating 136 other competitors and arriving at the finishing line so far ahead of the field that race officials were not even there to receive him.

Louis himself came in only 28th, but it mattered little as his brother's win was more than enough to propel the company to the first rank of manufacturers. Establishing the configuration of the Model K as the new ideal for a "light car", production of a touring version, dubbed the NA and in effect a smaller-engined version of the racer, started almost immediately.

How many found their way to this country is impossible to establish, but we tracked down Britain's only survivor to the Herts/Essex border, the home of its owner and restorer George Dorrington.

Having studied engineering



Past glories: George Dorrington and his Renault NA, one of only three left in the world

at Bristol University, and served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers during the Second World War, George is now retired from his family's bakery business. His joy is a workshop and barn full of vintage and Edwardian cars, among them the extremely rare Renault NA.

He bought his first Renault, a 1913 "Doctor's Coupe", about 35 years ago and still uses it regularly, most recently driving more than 700 miles to the Loire Valley and back. But it is the NA, which has pride of place, and not just because of its historical connections. It is one of only four NAs still known to exist, three if you discount an incomplete one in Australia.

George acquired his, or rather most of it, in the late 1960s when it was evident that there was a lot missing, including the chassis, front axle and steering gear and Renault's distinctive radiators.

Incredibly, five years later most of the missing components turned up on a farm in Normandy. Better still, once George had shipped them home and cleaned them up, he discovered that the engine and chassis numbers matched up, proving they had come from the same car.

There was still no sign of the missing radiators, however, so George made his own, fabricating more than 3,200 little

cooling fins and cropping nearly 13,000 corners before they could be soldered on. That was in 1977, at which time George helped organise a commemorative run to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Renault's great victory, deciding to rebury his own car for the event as an exact replica of Marcel Renault's right down to the race number, 147.

George admits having to drill more than 6,000 holes in the seatbacks was "a bit of a bore", but that is how Marcel liked it, and anyway, after the radiators, building a replica body was comparatively simple. Once completed it joined 20 other venerable Renaults leaving Paris to tackle the approximately 1,000-mile

Present triumphs Villeneuve triumphs at Silverstone. Renault-engined Benetton were placed 2nd and 3rd

George admits that having to drill more than 6,000 holes in the seatbacks was 'a bit of a bore'

route across Europe. For Renault it was a double celebration as the event also marked the 75th anniversary of their activities in Britain.

Two decades on, the four-cylinder 2.6-litre side-valve engine is still going strong. Developing 14 horsepower at a leisurely 1,200rpm with drip-feed lubrication, a leather-lined clutch, an extremely tricky quadrant gearchange and hand-operated brakes acting only on the rear wheels, the NA is clearly not for the faint-hearted. But in the right hands, says George, it is good for 50mph and will do it all day without complaining.

And he should know. George reckons he has already done more than 35,000 miles in the old lady, taking part in every Brighton run since 1977, letting Nigel Mansell have a go around Brooklands a few years back, and driving to numerous events and rallies in the UK, Ireland, France, Andorra, Corsica and Sardinia. Already George is planning how to celebrate the Renault company centenary next year.

### STEERING COLUMN

## Finding the winners by a long stalk

If you want to know about snails and speed, ask Neil Riseborough. Come the weekend, Neil trades a Valmet 8100 tractor for the comforts of a Renault Savamiah, taking to the road as managing director of Snails on Tour.

Simon Hacker writes. Neil is Britain's only official snail trainer. Snails selected from his farm near King's Lynn are carefully observed for their potential to get up and go. The spiciest quality to join the 1997 tour programme. The least sluggish have been limbering up in preparation for the World Snail Racing Championships in Coningham, Norfolk today, the high point of Britain's snail racing calendar.

"The shell should be aerodynamic, like a decent sports car," he says. "The shallower the swirl, the quicker it'll go. The length of eye stalks is also important in a photo-finish, the longer-stalked snail will be the winner."

The drama builds up, but the race can be over in mere hours. Rogue private entries have been highly successful: the 0-60 metres per hour record was smashed in 1995 by Archie, who covered 13m in a feverish 120 seconds, powering his way into the Guinness Book of Records.

What's your first driving memory?

Probably on my dad's lap on a tractor, although I remember first holding the

wheel of a Moggie 1000 pick-up.

What was your first car?

A two-tone green and cream Triumph Herald, bought for £15 with no MoT.

What car do you drive now and why?

A 1.7-litre petrol Renault Savamiah, a seven-seater. With the demands of three children and the 1997 tour programme, we needed something a little different. A people carrier was too pricey and this was next best. When you're buying a snail-friendly car you have to think about ventilation, circulation and humidity — climate control is very important because air changes can dramatically impair a snail's performance.

Do you enjoy driving?

The longer I'm married, the harder it gets. Norfolk is a great county for driving though the volume of traffic is so much less here.

What is your dream car?

A Chrysler Voyager. We drove one on holiday in Canada last year and thought it was brilliant.

Which is your most hated car?

The Ford Ka. Some people expected me to like it because it looks like a snail, but to me it looks more like a cosmic beetle.



Neil Riseborough reflects on one of his contenders

## Championship chance

The Superbike World Championship visits Britain for the second time this year when the European round is run at Brands Hatch in Kent on August 3. Thanks to Brands Hatch and Team Suzuki, who include British hope James Whitham, one lucky reader of Car 97 has a chance to win a pair of tickets, visit the pits and talk to the team.

All you have to do is say which team Championship leader Carl Fogarty rides for. Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: Superbike Competi-

tion, Car 97, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winning card will be drawn from all correct entries. Closing date July 24. Winner will be notified by telephone. Usual competition rules apply.

The Superbike series is based on roadbikes and last year 57,000 turned out to watch the racing. The crowd this year is expected to be bigger and to provide vocal support to top home riders: Carl Fogarty, Neil Hodgson, his Ducati team-mate and Suzuki's Whitham. And our reader offer for VIP viewing is still open. See below.

## French, classy, stylish and very fast

From the banks of the Loire, the hand-built Venturi is back in Britain. Ian Morton is impressed

With £60,000 to spend where does the discerning customer turn? Porsche, Jaguar, Mercedes, Lotus? Pre-owned Bentley, Aston or Ferrari? Heavy end of Audi or BMW? Or Venturi?

Hand-built on the banks of the Loire near Nantes, Venturi made a brief but unsustained gesture at the UK supercar market a few years ago. In informed circles, the marque is known for gritty competition in Europe, including six finishes in eight Le Mans outings. Now owned by a Thai motor group called Nakarin-Benz, run by ex-Lotus MD Mike Bishop and imported by Kensington-based Aston specialist Nicholas Mee, it is backed with serious intent.

And why not? The lure of the new and exotic was ever a feature of the up-market motoring fringe, and the Venturi Atlantique 300 offers the two basic requisites — powerful, star-worthy styling and stirring performance. Capable of 174mph, it is the fastest production car made in France today. Better still, it is logical. Those lines and curves are elegantly drawn yet compactly athletic, the wide frontal grille and driving lights are particularly fetching, the cabin acknowledges no current fad and nothing is going to look dated in a hurry. The composite body clothes a stout steel chassis, and all the visible inner parts look as carefully finished as the skin. The turbo-charged engine, sited amidships, is a development of the brawny and well-seasoned 3-litre Renault V6 and drives a proven transmission.

Driving could into London traffic in an expensive, unknown car can remain a slightly daunting experience even after 30 years of testing, but I cannot recall one more instantly friendly than this. The control area, reminiscent of Lotus but more integrated,

### ATLANTIQUE

Engine: V6 2975cc alloy with turbocharger giving 281bhp at 5300rpm.

Transmission: Five-speed manual.

Performance: 0-60 mph in 5.5 seconds, maximum 174 mph.

Economy: Urban TBA, 29.7mpg at 50mph, 21.7mpg at 75mph.

Equipment: Burr-walnut and leather trim. Price: £59,579.

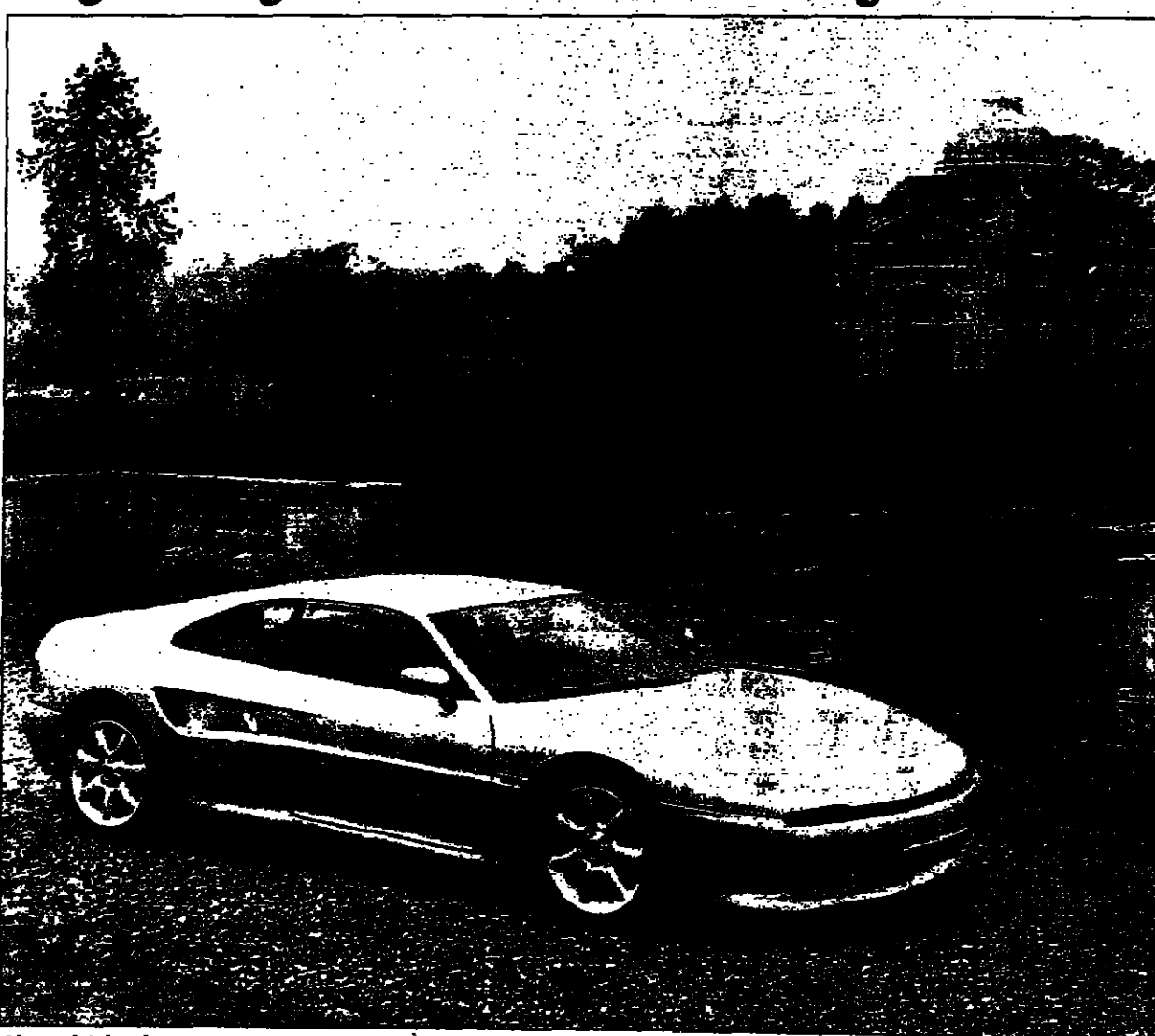
mounts smallish individual instruments in a burr-walnut setting.

Bridge of Weir leather trim completes a welcoming club environment, the seats are well shaped and comfortable, and for a squat two-seater there is a lot of space. While casual stowage is confined to four small lidded boxes, there is space for long-weekend luggage under the bonnet and behind the engine.

The engine grows affably, the steering is nicely weighted, the turning circle is tight and the only thing which militates against ease is the height at which you drive — the roof is 3ft 10in above the road and you have a handspan of headroom below that.

While the full 281hp is not delivered until 5300rpm, the turbocharger comes in a warble and a whirr at about 2700rpm, and in a car weighing less than 2500kg that can mean only one thing — a rush of incremental impetus that leaves all but the fiercest opposition blinking.

But while this is a blatant opportunist of a car, it is also a gorgeous cruiser, settling into arrow-straight stability, mechanical noises such as they are (at 70mph in fifth, the



Venturi Atlantique 300: those lines and curves are elegantly drawn yet compactly athletic and the car is instantly friendly

engine is only doing 2500rpm) lost in the reassuring rumble of broad low-profile Michelins. The faster the Venturi runs, the smoother it rides.

Mee rates it a natural alternative for customers sated on Porsches and intends a modest 25 a year, so rarity should be a no-charge extra. Buyers will be welcome at Nantes and Mee intends to be at the Earl's Court Motor Show. He wants to see Venturi in the "pyramid of icons" to which small boys of all ages aspire. (Initial experience suggests it is well worthy of a place.



The cabin acknowledges no current fad and nothing is going to look dated in a hurry. Bridge of Weir leather trim completes a welcoming club environment, seats are well shaped and comfortable, and for a squat two-seater there is a lot of space.

### EXCLUSIVE TIMES SPORTS OFFER

## 1997 World Superbike at Brands Hatch



Sunday 3rd August. £88 per person.

THE TIMES and Brands Hatch have teamed up to offer readers fantastic savings on a first-class day out. For only £88 per person, you will be entertained in the top floor suite of the new hospitality building at Brands Hatch, giving you spectacular views of the circuit, with prime viewing all day. The normal cost for this package is around £160 per person. Early booking is recommended as offer is subject to availability.

### PRICE INCLUDES:

- FULL ACCESS TO THE SUITE
- DEDICATED CAR PARKING
- ENTRANCE PASSES
- PROGRAMME
- MORNING COFFEE
- BUFFET LUNCHEON
- AFTERNOON TEA
- BAR FACILITIES

TO BOOK CALL BRANDS HATCH ON 0990 125250 (Monday - Saturday 9.30am - 6.30pm) Access: Visa, American Express and Switch accepted







# Sit down, tune in and cut the grass

### The Kib's control centre

Or I could until Roy Wilkins, my former neighbor who is into serious tractors spotted me. From the cyrie of his cab across the fence came a shouted question and a friendly wave: "What do you do when you've finished playing — trundle it under the bed with the other toys?"

I just tapped the ear defenders and said I couldn't hear.

[illegible]

**PREVIA SOLAIR**  
Ltd Ed. P reg. Nov 96. Winer,  
7 seater, 10k mls. high level  
spec including: aircon,  
Captain seats revv. CD/ radio.  
Only now  
must sell £19,950  
**Tel:**  
**(01734) 404077.**

00P	800 GLT 2.5 20V AUTO	
	EST WORKS	
00P	800 TDI 5 GAL. MARI	C19493
	Blue Mint	
01P	800 R EST AUTO	C22986
	Dark Grey Mint	
01P	800 SE 2.5 10V AUTO EST	C27605
	Dark Grey Pearl	
01P	800 2.5 20V CD AUTO EST	C17805
	Shore Sand Mint	
01P	800 2.5 10V AUTO EST	C21885
	Shore Sand Mint	
01P	800 2.5 10V AUTO EST	C18805
	Shore Sand Mint	

**Ridgeway West**  
**07000 VOLVO**  
**01793 436971**  
 161 RIDGEWAY WEST  
 WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO

**NEW 98 UK Specification  
RHD Polo. Tremendous  
savings on all models.  
Example - Polo 1.6CL 3  
Door + Power Steering, ABS,  
A/C, Alloys, Met Paint.  
£10,695 OTR**

**WHY PAY MORE?**

**CALL 01703 470208  
FAX 471707  
or 07000 1 EURO CAR  
Part Exchange Welcome**

[illegible]